

Trade unions determined to play greater role in the Labour Party

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The trade unions last night served warning on the Labour Party that they intend to play a much greater role in party organization when Mr Jim Mortimer, the Labour general secretary, retires in two months' time.

His successor, Mr Larry Whitty, a key official in the party's trade union support group, has written a scathing critique of Labour's reluctance to accept trade union suggestions to improve organization.

Mr Whitty, secretary of Trade Unions for a Labour Victory (TULV), a coalition of more than 30 union general secretaries, which last year raised more than £250,000 for the party, says in the paper that Labour failed to accept union proposals that resources should be concentrated during the last election on marginal seats.

He calls for an immediate campaign in more than 100 marginal seats with a commitment that large sums of money would be spent on improving organization, mounting propaganda campaigns, increasing membership and generally raising the level of awareness in constituencies that Labour must capture if it is to win the next election.

The aim of the new thrust would be to increase party membership and to increase the number of trade unionists voting Labour. In the last election 39 per cent of all union

members voted for the party compared with about 64 per cent 20 years ago and key figures in the Labour movement are aiming to increase that proportion to at least 50 per cent.

Mr Whitty's appraisal of the seven years of operations by TULV says that before the last election, "the more far-reaching proposals by TULV to establish or second trade union officers to look from a trade union point of view at party organization region by region, was never agreed with the party."

"By 1983 it was too late. Indications were that an audit in conjunction with the party organization in key marginal seats including examination of the structure of agencies, financial support to key seats, trade union affiliation and involvement and membership improvement all needed much closer examination."

"The TULV mechanism could have achieved that but this was never effectively pursued," he writes. His comments in the paper were underlined yesterday by Mr David Bassett, who retired as chairman of TULV in view of his impending retirement as general secretary of the General, Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union. He believed that Labour Party organization would "improve 100 per cent when Mr Whitty takes over in June".

Mr Bassett also identified as a main aim a rapid injection of resources into marginal seats and referred to the need for an "almost evangelical" campaign in the trade unions to secure support in ballots for maintenance of their political funds. The ballots which are necessary under last year's Trade Union Act, have got under way with the first vote being held in the printing union, Sogat 82, which is due to report the results early next month.

Other unions will be holding ballots during the next nine months and yesterday leading officials of the campaign to secure yes-votes said they were confident of winning the backing of their members. The unions provide about £3 million a year to finance the Labour Party through the political levy and although some unions, particularly those with large numbers of white-collar members, may have difficulty in winning support for continuing their political funds, blue-collar unions are expected to return yes-votes.

Mr Bassett has been succeeded as chairman of TULV by Mr Ron Todd, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, and Mr Bryan Stanley, leader of the Post Office Engineers, is to take over the newly-created post of vice-chairman.

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Hungarian aid for Shah paper

Mr Eddy Shah, the owner of Messenger Group Newspapers, will print his new national newspaper on presses leased through the London subsidiary of the Hungarian National Bank, it was disclosed yesterday (Colin Hughes writes).

The financial alliance has taken unions by surprise, as the Hungarian International Bank is wholly controlled by Hungary's Communist Government.

Mr Shah, is widely seen as an anti-union employer, since he defeated the National Graphical Association in late 1983 in a dispute at his Warrington works over the closed shop.

Mr Shah said yesterday that he has raised more than £20 million for the venture, and is expecting to appoint an editor "within six to eight weeks".

He said a consortium of

seven investors had raised nearly £10 million of the money, including Candover, Scottish Investment Trust, and the British Investment Trust.

He and Messenger Group between them will hold more than 30 per cent of the shares, and no other investor will hold more than 12 per cent, he said. Ten per cent will be offered on a share option scheme to the new company's projected 800 employees.

The Hungarian bank will not own any part of the company, but will act like a hire purchase firm. The company will repay the bank over several years.

Mr Shah has already paid the deposit on the six presses, which will cost £8 million altogether, and will be built by Alan Roland of West Germany. Hungarian International Bank became interested because they

have previous dealings with Alan Roland.

Mr Shah said he had approached several British banks and financiers, but they were all "scared of the political implications". Some had offered to fund one or two presses, but the Hungarians had agreed to fund all six "purely on commercial considerations".

Mr Tim Newling, managing director of Hungarian International, said his Hungarian directors had been consulted and had agreed that Mr Shah's plan "stacked up very well". He emphasized that the decision to support the deal was "not in any way politically oriented".

Mr Shah is planning to site the presses, which will have full colour capacity, in six separate urban areas close to motorways.

Expelled Libyan may be back in Europe

One of the senior Libyan diplomats expelled from Britain last year after the Libyan People's Bureau siege is believed to be back in Europe and was seen two weeks ago in Brussels (Our Crime Reporter writes).

Dr Omar Sodani, who acted at one stage as the public voice of the bureau, was interviewed in Brussels by the makers of a BBC television documentary on the siege shown last night on BBC 2.

Dr Sodani was posing as a medical student calling himself Omar Elmhida.

Tax policy on arts attacked

By Colin Hughes

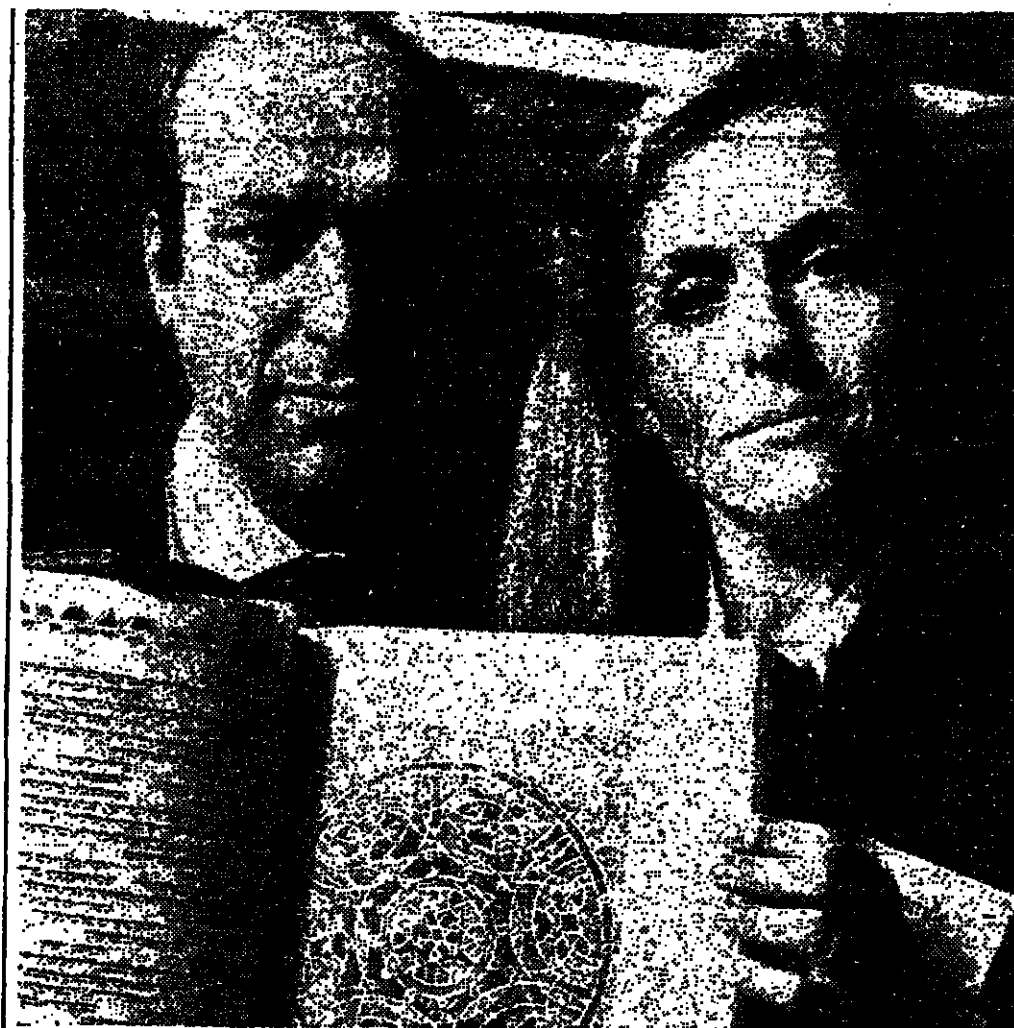
Four of the nation's leading museum and art gallery directors have joined to attack the Government's policy on writing off tax when historical and art treasures are transferred to public collections.

Sir David Wilson of the British Museum, Sir Roy Strong of the Victoria and Albert Museum, Sir Michael Levy of the National Gallery, and Professor Alan Bowness of the Tate Gallery, say that the system is "no longer workable" and that the £2 million set aside for tax compensation is too small to cope with the demand.

Under the payment-in-lieu-of-work or estate deemed to be of "pre-eminent" value in the national cultural heritage, can apply to have the tax paid to the Treasury for them by the Office of Arts and Libraries, under Lord Gower, Minister for the Arts.

In return they must accept that the work, wherever it is sold, will be handed to a collection or trust for public display. The directors have written to Lord Gower saying that £2 million is insufficient, and that many valuable works in private collections may be lost to the nation if the system is not reformed.

Last year the Office of Arts and Libraries agreed to underwrite Capital Transfer Tax on 10 works and collections, the most recent payment being £194,000 tax on the Geoffrey Keynes collection of William Blake paintings.



Michael and Linda Falter with their £4,000 facsimile of the Kennicott Bible of 1476 (Photograph: John Voos)

Book fair boycott 'arrogant'

By Richard Dowden

Ms Beatriz Casoy, the director of the London Book Fair, attacked leading publishers for their absence from Britain's biggest annual display of books, which opened at the Barbican yesterday.

Ms Casoy described their absence as ill-mannered and arrogant. "It is very sad that they are not here," she said. "They may not feel they need the fair but the British publishing industry needs them here."

The fair, now in its fourteenth year, has 539 exhibitors this year, 77 per cent of them from overseas, displaying 25,000 books.

"Of course they can get a subsidy to go to the Frankfurt Book Fair because it's foreign."

London just isn't glamorous enough for them.

A spokesman for Pan Books said that they had exhibited there in the past but had not found it cost-effective.

Penguin Books would only confirm that they had never exhibited there but senior executives from both firms were not available for comments last night. It is believed that they were visiting the book fair.

Meanwhile the fair itself remains a jamboree of small publishers, some of them with eccentric and risky enterprises.

One couple, who have never published anything before, spent more than £1 million reproducing 550 copies of a fourteenth century Hebrew Bible. Five hundred of them will go on sale at about £4,000 each.

Michael and Linda Falter have even reproduced the uncorrected manuscript, holes and damp stains "so that it gives the aura of the original manuscript," Mrs Falter said.

The Bodleian Library at Oxford, which owns the original, was sceptical about the venture and would not allow the Falters to photograph it, insisting that the library did it. After five years, three months of which was spent with the printers in Italy, the first copies were on display yesterday. Mr Falter is confident he will sell them all.

There was also Mr William Rushton and his wife, of Rushton, Rushton and Rushton, "probably the smallest publishers in the world".

DPP studies dossier on alleged £2m loans fraud

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

A preliminary police report on allegations of a £2 million fraud involving loans made by the export Credit Guarantee Department is being studied by officials in the office of Sir Thomas Hetherington, Director of Public Prosecutions.

The report has been drawn up by detectives from the fraud squads in the City of London Police, who were called in to investigate irregularities in a number of loans uncovered by ECGD staff earlier this year. Yesterday City police confirmed that they were carrying out an investigation, which is likely to take some time before any arrests are made.

A spokesman for the ECGD said that a "very few cases" were being examined as a result of "some irregularities which came to our attention." Reports of a total fraud of £200 million were dismissed and the spokesman would not comment on the countries involved in the cases.

The spokesman said that ECGD had a system of trying to ensure that money was not paid out unless it was genuinely due. Claims officers examined cases made out for remuneration and paperwork was checked carefully.

Much of the investigation is a paper check although the ECGD can appoint agents in the countries concerned to discover if goods have physically arrived.

Exporters are insured by the ECGD against non-payment for specified reasons. If goods are delivered in poor condition or the contract is not fulfilled in other ways that would be a matter between the exporter and the importer and would not involve the ECGD.

The ECGD accepts claims where the importer does not pay because of insolvency, defaulting, political reasons or currency exchange controls.

BP to shed 750 jobs at refinery

By Jonathan Davis, Business Correspondent

About 750 workers in South Wales are to lose their jobs as a result of BP's decision to close most of the main production facilities at its Llandarcy oil refinery, near Swansea.

The decision to close most of the refinery was given by management to the workforce at lunchtime yesterday. The future of the plant has been under review for some time, although the scale of the move had not been expected locally.

BP said that the costs of closing most of the facilities at Llandarcy would be more than £35 million, but would result in annual cost savings of about £15 million a year. The refinery is to concentrate on the production of lubricants and other specialized products. It will no longer refine crude oil to produce petrol, heating oil, and fuel oil.

Miners and NCB meet today for pay talks

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Miners' leaders meet the National Coal Board today for the first negotiation meeting between the two sides in six months. The board is expected to seek a long-term pay deal from the union, which in return, will seek assurances on pit closures.

Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers is expected to lead the miners' team at the meeting, which was made possible by the decision to call off the overtime ban.

Miners who have not had a pay rise since 1982, will be offered 5.2 per cent increases for the last two years, and the board may be looking for a deal covering at least the next twelve months.

Later today, Mr Ian MacGregor, the coal board chairman, is due to meet all three mining unions to discuss new appeal machinery for dealing with pit closures.

Last night leaders of the pit deputies' union left a meeting with the board, which they described as being "bitter and heated" on the controversial issue of a new colliery review procedure.

Leaders of the National Association of Colliery Overmen Deputies and Shot Fire (Nacods) said that the board had refused their request that all pit closures should be put through the procedure, agreed last October.

Nine hurt in blast at Austin plant

From Craig Seton, Oxford

A gas leak is thought to have been responsible for a massive explosion which tore through the Austin Rover car plant at Cowley, Oxford, yesterday, injuring nine workers, one of them seriously.

The company and the factory inspectorate launched an immediate inquiry into the explosion which happened in an area of the plant where cars receive preparation for motor shows.

The blast sent glass and other debris flying through the air and hundreds of workers at the complex, which employs more than 8,000 people, were moved out in case of further explosions. Firemen searched through the rubble in case more victims were buried.

A fire brigade spokesman said the explosion was probably caused by a gas leak but it would also investigate the possibility that equipment used to heat car paintwork could be to blame.

Seven of the injured were taken to the John Radcliffe Hospital, six with minor injuries and one with more serious head injuries. He and two others were later transferred to the Radcliffe Infirmary. A hospital spokesman said that most of those with slight injuries had been cut by flying glass.

The Cowley factory produces about 200,000 cars a year, including the Montego, the Maestro and the large Rover.

Council ends its defiance and issues rate demands

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

Lewisham Borough Council in London started issuing rate demands yesterday while the leader of Haringey council in the capital resigned because his Labour colleagues refused to stop delaying the fixing of a rate.

But other councils in the long campaign to win concessions from the Government by delaying rates held firm. Lawyers in Greenwich were preparing a potential legal minefield for ministers which might enable the Labour council there to avoid fixing a rate until June.

The decision of Lewisham not to oppose last week's decision by opposition councillors to adopt a legal rate means that it has effectively dropped out of the campaign of defiance mounted by a dwindling minority of Labour authorities.

Opposition councillors fixed a rate in Lewisham last week while the Labour majority argued about its policy outside the council chamber. But no budget has been set and Labour

councillors are to consider spending at a level which may leave them short of funds.

Mr Toby Harris, chief whip of the majority Labour group in Haringey, said that Mr George Meehan had resigned as group leader in a dispute about the timing of rate-fixing. Mr Meehan had wanted a decision at a council meeting today.

But he had been outvoted by what Mr Harris would describe only as a clear majority. Mr Harris said that the council would be asked tonight in postponement of a rate until after a statutory meeting next week between ministers and leaders of associations of councils.

The Lewisham decision means that seven rate-capped Labour councils and two others are delaying rate-fixing as a protest against government spending cuts. Greenwich has been given leave to open a complicated case in mid-June against spending decisions by ministers.

TV programmes back to normal

Journalists at BBC television, who disrupted programmes for 24 hours, are seeking an urgent meeting with the management to discuss the job security of current affairs staff.

Programmes returned to normal yesterday morning after the walkout by the current affairs National Union of Journalists chapel at Lime Grove, west London.

Corrections

Mr John Cunningham, Labour's chief spokesman on the environment, not as stated yesterday. Mr Roger Parker-Jervis, Conservative chairman of Buckinghamshire County Council, urged the Government to discuss grant problems with Labour council leaders. Complaints by Mr Parker-Jervis applied to grants and penalties, not rate capping as the headline stated.

The Buddhist peace pagoda in Battersea Park, is not to be opened by the Queen next month, as stated yesterday. No decision has been taken on who will officiate.

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Piesporter Michelsberg Riesling (J. Langguth) Mosel 1983
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Geisenheimer Münchshof Riesling (Schumann-Nägler) Rheingau 1983
Berncasteler Kueker Riesling (J. Langguth) Mosel 1983
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Nine hurt in blast at Austin plant

Frank Craig Nelson, Oxford

A nine-man jury has found that a massive explosion at the Austin Rover plant in Oxford, which killed one man and injured nine others, was caused by a gas leak from a faulty valve.

The jury, which heard evidence from witnesses and experts, found that the explosion was preventable. It was caused by a gas leak from a faulty valve on a machine used for painting car parts.

The explosion occurred on January 15, 1984, at 10.15 am. It was heard for miles around and caused significant damage to the plant. Nine workers were injured, and one, John Ridd, died.

The jury's findings are part of a criminal trial against the plant's manager, Mr. John Ridd, who is charged with manslaughter. The trial is expected to last several weeks.

Judge to report barrister who took 28 hours over his final speech

A barrister is to be reported to the Bar Council, the barristers' disciplinary committee, for incompetence and for accusing a judge of racial prejudice.

Mr. Bryan, defence counsel in a case at Southwark Crown Court, south-east London, was accused by Judge Cooke of prolonging a 75-day trial which was listed to last for two weeks.

Judge Cooke told Mr. Bryan that he had acted disgracefully as counsel to his defendant, Semiyu Kassim, a Nigerian student. He said the barrister had introduced unnecessary arguments into the case.

During the trial Mr. Bryan, a West Indian, invited a member of the jury out for a drink. He said to a male juror in an open court: "I saw you on the Tube this morning but didn't speak to you because of the trial. Maybe we could go out for a drink at the end of the case."

Kassim, aged 27, was found guilty on 11 specimen counts of obtaining money by deception. He was found not guilty on four charges of theft. After failing him for 18 months, of which six months were suspended, and recommending his deportation, Judge Cooke held both barristers involved in the case.

He told Mr. Bryan "I was even accused of racial bias."

strongly resent that kind of statement being made to me.

"That is one of the matters I will present to the disciplinary body of the Bar. I take the view that at least a third of the sitting days in this case were wasted by the way in which the defence treated the matter."

Judge Cooke also accused the barrister of failing to co-operate with Mr. James Curtis, the prosecution counsel. "There



Mr. Bryan yesterday: "I tried to save time"

was rank outrageous animosity, in this case such as I have never before experienced and I say bluntly that it came from the defence counsel.

"The atmosphere in which this case was conducted, and certain comments made were nothing short of disgraceful."

Judge Cooke told Mr. Bryan, who was called to the Bar in 1970: "In places your case was completely unstructured and parts of the defence were irrelevant trivia."

"You required prompting from the prosecution and the court and even from the foreman of the jury."

Asked for his comments by the judge, Mr. Curtis said: "He made serious and gross misstatements of fact. Again and again he was asked to retract them but again and again he refused."

Mr. Bryan, whose closing speech lasted 28 hours, denied wasting time. He said, "I categorically refute the suggestion that the defence took a minute longer than necessary."

"I have done my duty and not attempted to waste any time, in fact I have tried to save time."

The trial started last October and the jury was told how Kassim of Midship Place, West Ferry Road, Isle of Dogs, east London, who came to London to study banking and commercial law, made at least £9,000 by opening false bank accounts.

Gina Campbell prepares new craft for racing



High Court to rule on Goshawk case

The High Court will be asked to rule on a test case over the protection of British birds of prey.

The judges will be asked to decide on the legal meaning of part of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, after difficulties in interpreting the Act at Ashton-under-Lyne magistrates' court yesterday.

The case was brought by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds under the Act, against Eric Kirkland, aged 39, a falconer, of Houghton Green, Denton, Greater Manchester.

Mr. Kirkland pleaded not guilty to one charge of illegally possessing four Goshawks and charges of selling three of them for a total of £1,250.

The court was told that Mr. Kirkland bought the birds believing they were bred legally and in legal captivity. But Mr. Mark Love, for the RSPB, alleged that the four Goshawks had different characteristics from the parent stock and were therefore illegal under the Act.

Mr. Love said: "That is because the burden of proof falls upon Mr. Kirkland to prove he had the birds in his possession legally."

"The law may seem draconian, but it is quite clear. The Act means that no one can benefit from an act which was originally unlawful."

He admitted that this meant that hundreds of people who owned birds bred from illegally-owned Goshawks could never have them registered.

Mr. Peter Pluck, for the defence, said the Act relating to possession was "contrary to natural justice" by placing the burden of proof on the defendant.

He asked the magistrates to decide if his client could be guilty of an alleged offence when he had always honestly believed that the birds were bred and held legally.

The magistrates adjourned their decision on their ruling until May 2.

However, the prosecution and defence said that whatever the magistrates decide they will appeal to the High Court.

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US air base broken into by CND

Twenty members of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament were arrested yesterday after breaking into the United States Air Force base in Alconbury, Cambridgeshire. The base is to be the support centre for Britain's next cruise missile site at RAF Molesworth, 10 miles away.

CND claimed their members scaled the perimeter fence and prevented flying for an hour by invading the main runway of the base, the home of the TR1 spy aircraft and the 10th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing.

But the Ministry of Defence said flying was not disrupted.

Mrs. Anne Francis, was arrested twice as she used bolt cutters to get through the fence around the Greenham Common air base, near Newbury, Berkshire, Aylesbury Crown Court was told yesterday.

The court was told that Mrs. Francis, aged 44, of Abergavenny, Gwent, was among a group of women who cut their way into the air base on May 12 and 13 last year. She denies two offences of criminal damage. The trial continues today.

PCs charged with burglary

Police Constable Andrew Gibson, aged 39, and Police Constable Kenneth Rowley, aged 31, were charged at Hereford Magistrates' Court yesterday with stealing an unknown quantity of cash from Harperbury Hospital Social Club and Hill End Hospital Social Club, both near St Albans, between April 6 and 9.

PC Gibson, of Hazel Grove, Welwyn Garden City, and PC Rowley, of Peters Road, London Colney, are both patrol car officers at St Albans police station. Both men were remanded in custody.



New Bluebird: Gina Campbell, who escaped injury in an accident last year in which her craft was destroyed, and her partner Mike Standing (below) are to compete this season in Agia Bluebird IV (top), a 25ft Phantom Monohull with twin Mercury 150 XR2 outboard engines (Photographs: Harry Kerr).

Smallpox tests on 1845 body

By Pearce Wright

Tests for smallpox infection are being made on tissue taken from the body of a person who died in about 1845. The tests on the tissue of a corpse disinterred by archaeologists at the site of Christ Church, at Spitalfields, east London, are being conducted at the Centre for Communicable Diseases, in Atlanta, Georgia, in the United States. It is the only centre able to diagnose the disease.

Although smallpox was declared eradicated two years ago by the World Health Organization, the possibility that the virus might lie dormant in a corpse of a person who died of the infection is covered by the Health and Safety at Work Act.

Three archaeologists were vaccinated under an arrangement with the Health and Safety Executive, which monitors excavations where there is a possibility of uncovering the bodies of victims of infectious diseases.

Specialists in microbiology do not believe that the smallpox virus would remain active for 140 years, but that is not conclusive.

400 sip and sniff tap water in test

By Robin Young

The Severn-Trent Water Authority has spent £8,500 on a project in which it asked 400 people in three towns in its area to taste tap water.

Residents of Nottingham, Coventry and Leicester were invited to sniff and sip samples of the types of water each town receives.

Nottingham is supplied with water pumped from below ground; Coventry, like Birmingham, is supplied from an upland impounding reservoir; and Gloucester, like most of the lower Severn district, gets water taken from the river. The samples used in the test were not identified.

A spokesman for the water authority said yesterday: "We wanted to discover whether any of the water we are supplying is generally unacceptable when compared with the others. If it is, the research could be important in decisions for future investment, or in possibly modifying our treatment to improve the taste of particular water."

No results were available yet and the test would probably be repeated in the summer when

there tended to be more complaints from the public.

● A father of three could lose his job because he refuses to drink water at a North Wales river abstraction plant.

Mr. Wally Hughes, a plant operator, says that he and seven colleagues at the works in Breton, Clwyd, were ordered to drink samples at hourly intervals to check the taste.

The instruction came from Welsh Water Authority officials last February, after the toxic chemical Phenol, leaked into the river Dee and contaminated supplies to more than 2 million people in North Wales, Cheshire, and Merseyside.

Mr. Hughes, aged 39, refused, and was dismissed, but later reinstated in a temporary job away from the Breton treatment works. Now he has been told that unless he returns to his old job and drinks the water every hour, or accepts a new job at the Chester sewage works, he will be regarded as having dismissed himself.

A spokesman for the authority yesterday confirmed the instruction.

Applying for the remand, Sgt Maurice Mundy said that the body of the boy, of Goshland Close, Bestwood Park, near Nottingham, was recovered from the river Leen at Bestwood.

A crowd, which at one point numbered more than 200, waited outside the court after the case, but later dispersed.

Three men were remanded in custody until tomorrow by magistrates at Highgate, north London, yesterday, charged in connection with an attempted robbery at the Mount Royal Hotel, Marble Arch, on Monday.

The men, all unemployed, are charged with attempting to rob Alison Taylor and possessing a shotgun and two handguns with intent to rob. They are John Marks, aged 18, of Lilyville Road, Fulham, Anthony Maksymowski, aged 23, of Hayter House, Sundew Avenue, Shepherds Bush, and Anthony Patrick, aged 21, of Sharnbrook House, Marchbank Road, West Kensington, all west London.

Airline service

British Caledonian has announced that it will use chauffeur-driven cars to pick up from their homes all first, and business-class passengers who live within a 40-mile radius of Gatwick airport, thus attempting to take business class custom from North Atlantic rivals.

Outburst in court at murder case

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Scientists working on human embryos, heart transplantation and other controversial medical issues are likely to leave ethical considerations far behind them unless a national watchdog body is set up to monitor their work, the authors of a new book on medical ethics said yesterday.

"There is no foreseeable limit to what scientific researchers will do unless ethical boundaries are established," Dr. John Dawson, head of the British Medical Association's professional and scientific division, said.

"Many doctors become extremely impatient with ethical theories and even more impatient at the suggestion that they should be bound by them. Taken to its extreme, this would mean sanctioning a kind of moral anarchy in medicine," Dr. Dawson and his co-author, Melanie Phillips, a journalist, say in *Doctors' Dilemmas*, published yesterday.

Rapid advances in medicine expose doctors, patients and the general public to complex ethical and moral problems.

Doctors' Dilemmas: Medical Ethics and Contemporary Science Harvester Press (£20 hardback, £7.95 paperback).

Rise in exports of farm machines to Soviet Union

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

British sales of farm machinery to the Soviet Union are expected to quadruple this year. It will be the first significant increase since the late 1940s when the country was one of Britain's largest export markets.

The value of the trade is, statistically, still tiny, a bare £1.1 million, but earlier this year the first British exhibition devoted to food and agriculture was held in Moscow, and last year, Mr. Gorbachov, the new Soviet leader, spent an unexpected long time at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, during his visit to London.

Mr. Gorbachov is a former agriculture minister and, should he seek to modernize Soviet farming and open it to competition, the potential would be enormous.

Total exports of farm machinery last year were valued at £708.1 million, an increase of 24.5 per cent, according to the Agricultural Engineers' Association. Imports were £426.3 million.

The imposition of dairy quotas, which have slowed sales of milking equipment, and concern about the possibility of grain quotas or a fall in prices have led manufacturers to intensify their export efforts.

British eating much more snack food, survey says

The British taste for convenience food is booming, according to a survey published yesterday, which shows that more unhealthy products are being consumed than ever before.

The survey, a regular check made by Taylor Nelson and Associates, a market research group, suggests that more traditional foodstuffs are on the decline - squeezed out either by convenience food or by the second strong trend - healthy eating.

Taylor Nelson's food panel of 2,000 households has provided results that lead the company to claim Britain's eating patterns are "fragmenting".

Consumption of old favourites such as bacon, eggs, fresh meat, sausages, and even cakes and puddings, is down - while the survey discloses a strong move towards fish, fresh vegetables, fruit and cheese.

On the convenience food front, consumption of frozen (oven) chips has jumped 32 per cent in four years, and there has also been a 33 per cent increase in the eating of chocolate biscuits. Purchases of fizzy drinks have risen by 66 per cent over the period.

The survey also highlights a shift in lunchtime eating patterns. Mr. Mike Watson, of the food panel explains that "lunch

is becoming a lighter, less substantial meal."

People are eating convenience, packaged products, as time available for meal preparation contracts. This trend is very much in line with the panel's earlier findings that the traditional English breakfast and tea are on the way out.

The survey shows radical changes in eating habits.

Taylor Nelson research executive Mr. Giles Quick told *The Times* yesterday that there has been a broad-based shift towards convenience foods.

With foods such as ice cream, frozen pizza, and ready-made meals, the survey shows a 30 per cent increase in five years.

"Snacking" is on the rise, as the breakdown in formal meals continues - instead of families eating together, more and more one person is having a bite on the run.

The 1984 survey focused on the decline of the "great British tea", noting that traditional high tea had slumped in popularity, becoming the least important meal of the day. By 1984, Britain's families were preparing 83 million fewer meals a year than four years earlier.

The panel also suggested in its 1983 survey, that the hot breakfast was giving way to more health-conscious serving of toast, yoghurt and fruit juice.

Hooded men hijack milk tanker

The Milk Marketing Board described the "hijacking" of one of its tankers in west Wales yesterday as "senseless and inexplicable" (Our Agriculture Correspondent writes).

The tanker was waylaid by two hooded men on a farm road near Whitland, Dyfed, and 5,000 litres of milk were poured into a ditch. The driver, Mr. Eirig Elias, was threatened with pickaxe handles, and was said afterwards to be badly shaken.

A similar incident occurred last year, but no one was charged in spite of intensive police inquiries. In the early weeks after the imposition of dairy quotas just over a year ago, militant farmers styling themselves the Dyfed Action Group staged several demonstrations.

There have been no incidents for several months, and a board official.

Mr. Michael Jopling, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, hopes to increase the quotas of farmers with fewer than 40 cows to output levels before the cuts were imposed. To do so he has established what is called an "outrigger" scheme, with £50 million available in compensation for farmers who undertake voluntarily to give up dairying for at least five years.

Three men were remanded in custody until tomorrow by magistrates at Highgate, north London, yesterday, charged in connection with an attempted robbery at the Mount Royal Hotel, Marble Arch, on Monday.

The men, all unemployed, are charged with attempting to rob Alison Taylor and possessing a shotgun and two handguns with intent to rob. They are John Marks, aged 18, of Lilyville Road, Fulham, Anthony Maksymowski, aged 23, of Hayter House, Sundew Avenue, Shepherds Bush, and Anthony Patrick, aged 21, of Sharnbrook House, Marchbank Road, West Kensington, all west London.

Airline service

British Caledonian has announced that it will use chauffeur-driven cars to pick up from their homes all first, and business-class passengers who live within a 40-mile radius of Gatwick airport, thus attempting to take business class custom from North Atlantic rivals.

Fear of attacks cancels Scouts' Job Week

By Alan Hamilton

Parents of a Scout troop in Reading, Berkshire, have cancelled their children's traditional Scout Job Week this week because of their fears of muggings and sex attacks against the Scouts and Cub Scouts while they are out on their rounds.

Instead, the 67 young members of the 22nd Reading Cubs and Scouts will raise money by a supervised work day within the safety of their headquarters at St John's Church, Caversham. Mrs. Marion Brown, the group treasurer, described the decision as "sad, but a sign of our times."

"More and more parents are worried about their sons walking the streets doing odd jobs," she said. "The fact that they wear distinctive uniforms adds to their vulnerability. We are always hearing about robberies

in the street and youngsters going missing, and, to be honest, people just do not want to take the risk any longer."

Group activities are, in fact, becoming a more popular means of raising money during what used to be called Bob-A-Job week, until inflation rendered its title obsolete.

This year Unipart, the car components manufacturer, is sponsoring 3,000 Scout groups to set up car-washing stalls during Job Week on garage forecourts. The company is supplying cleaning materials free of charge, and in return hopes for publicity for a new car-washing product it is launching.

Previous sponsors have included a shoe polish manufacturer, promoting a Scout shoe-shining service, and the Kentucky Fried Chicken chain.

which possibly from a guilty conscience about the litter their takeaway meals can create, sponsored Scout groups on conservation and tidying-up projects.

Mr. Jack Olden, of the Scout Association headquarters in London, said yesterday that the movement was concerned about the safety of Scouts during Job Week.

Commercial sponsorship has not, however, destroyed individual enterprise. Before Mrs. Thatcher left on her Far East tour, her RAF VC10 aircraft was washed down from nose to tail by the Scout troop based on the RAF station at Brize Norton, Oxfordshire. They were paid £25, not by the Prime Minister, but by the RAF.

Washing of large objects is a traditional Job Week exercise.

In the past everything from elephants to tanks have been scrubbed by eager Scouts. Tomorrow Scouts from a troop at Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, will wash down a US Air Force KC135 stratotanker with just soap and water; the aircraft is 136 ft long, 41 ft high, and 130 ft between the wingtips.

Continuing the large objects tradition, Scouts from the 1st St Helens and Sefton troop in the Isle of Wight yesterday scrubbed down the 450-ton coastal minesweeper HMS Wilton in Portsmouth dockyard. They scrubbed the decks, polished the hull and the ship's bow, and helped to repair her glass fibre decks. Instead of the Queen's shilling they were rewarded with a £10 note from the commanding officer, Lt. Cmdr John McCulloch.

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Independent body for complaints against solicitors favoured by poll

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

An independent legal council should handle complaints against solicitors, the National Consumer Council say in a report today.

A Market and Opinion Research International (MORI) poll commissioned by the council shows the public would also prefer complaints to be handled by an independent body. More than half the people polled thought that any new body should be made up entirely, or mainly, of lay people, and only 5 per cent thought it should be composed entirely, or mainly, of solicitors.

When asked who should investigate complaints about the standard of service provided by solicitors, 43 per cent suggested, without prompting, an independent person or organization, or a government body. Only 15 per cent suggested that complaints should be investigated by solicitors or their organizations.

The NCC report calls for the independent council to be made up of solicitors and lay people to process all complaints. It says that the present system is too fragmented. Complaints about "misconduct" are dealt with by the Law Society, but claims for compensation, arising from a solicitor's negligence, have to be pursued privately, through the courts if necessary.

"It is difficult for consumers to know where to take their grievances and how to pursue them", the NCC says.

The report says there is a

deep conflict of interest between the Law Society's "trade union" role as promoter and defender of solicitors' interests, and its "regulatory" role as guardian of the public interest over solicitors' services.

It does not question the society's impartiality, but says "the fact remains that impartiality is not visible".

The new legal council would be financed by fees paid by solicitors for their annual practising certificate. It would have the power to rebuke or impose fines, to award compensation below a fixed limit, for example £2,000, and to order a solicitor to refund all or part of his fees.

Although acting as a reception point for all complaints the more serious would, after investigation, be referred elsewhere: as when the solicitor faces striking off, or where a claim involves substantial damages.

The NCC report comes at a time when there is a mood for change. Most local law societies represented at a recent special conference favoured an independent body to deal with complaints, but how independent is a matter for debate.

The conference gave the societies the chance of conferring with Coopers and Lybrand Associates, the management consultants employed by the Law Society to examine its role and functions.

In Dispute with the Solicitor (National Consumer Council, 18 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AA, £3).



Sir Hugh Casson with the plaque he unveiled yesterday on the Victoria Embankment, one of 40 planned by the Greater London Council in an effort to point out and preserve the capital's skyline (Photograph: John Voos).

Virus threat to Britain's beet crop

Britain's sugar beet crop is threatened by rhizomania, a disease that is spreading rapidly across Europe. There is no known cure for it.

The disease first appeared in Italy 25 years ago, but until last year was confined to southern Europe. In recent months, however, it has spread to Austria, West Germany, France, The Netherlands, and Belgium.

Rhizomania is a virus carried by a soil fungus present in most English beet fields. It attacks the root of the plant, stunting its growth and reducing yields and sugar content by as much as half.

Although as an island Britain's relatively protected disease could easily enter the country, for example, in the soil surrounding imported potatoes or on the shoes of travellers. Experts believe that its spread to Britain is inevitable.

Test engine checks air pollution

Ford research engineers have built a transparent engine from glass in an attempt to discover ways of reducing exhaust pollution. The engine, using specially-hardened glass and quartz, is illuminated with laser beams to show how gases and oil move inside.

The work, being carried out at the company's research department at Aveley, Essex, is aimed at producing engines with better performance, using less fuel with minimum emissions.

It is part of Ford's drive to avoid fitting expensive US-style catalytic converters to car exhaust systems to meet new EEC anti-pollution laws in the 1990s. The company is confident it can produce an engine which runs on a weak mixture of fuel and air, known as lean burn, as a more practical and cheaper way of achieving lower exhaust emissions.

Polish fury at torture of Solidarity priest

Warsaw (AP) - The Polish Government has launched an "energetic" investigation into an attack on a pro-Solidarity priest who was knocked out and suffered burns, a spokesman said yesterday.

The Church has denounced the attack on Father Tadeusz Zaleski and demanded an explanation.

As Father Zaleski was returning to his parents' home in the southern city of Cracow on Saturday, he was knocked out by gas sprayed by a masked assailant, who then burnt the letter "V" on his chest with a cigarette end, "or some other object", church officials and a spokesman for a banned human rights committee in Cracow said.

Mr Adam Dmulewicz from the government spokesman's office said: "There are energetic activities conducted in Cracow aimed at the explanation of all the circumstances of the incident."

Mr Zygmunt Lenyk, of the Cracow human rights committee, said the priest, aged 29, was a supporter of the committee and of Solidarity. Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, Archbishop of Cracow, demanded a full investigation and that "the source of the threat be liquidated".

He said: "The clergy and the society is moved and worried, which can be justified by the painful enough events of recent months" - an apparent reference to the murder last October of Father Jerzy Popieluszko by three secret police officers.

The attack comes at a delicate time in Church-State relations which have been strained since the Pope's visit to Poland. A meeting between the Polish leader, General Jaruzelski, and the Catholic primate, Cardinal Jozef Glemp, is being considered.

In a related development, sources close to the Church provided the text of an article which criticizes the official Communist Party weekly, *Polityka*, for accusing the Pope of strident anti-communism and sound divisiveness in his native Poland.

The article was written to appear in the next edition of *Przebieg Karolicki*, the Church's weekly newspaper in Warsaw. Sources said they were releasing it in advance out of fear it would be censored.

The report was believed to be in response to an inquiry by the Vatican, which contacted the Polish church and asked what it had not responded to the *Polityka* article.

The *Polityka* article appeared on March 30 and said the Vatican's policy on Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union was "clearly convergent with the cold war trend in the US Administration". In the remarks of the Pope, "we can find a lot of euphemisms typical in fact to a certain kind of current anti-communist literature", it said.

The article responding to *Polityka* accused the party weekly of giving "one-sided interpretation" of the Pope's statements and said its publication was "dangerous for Church-State relations".

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Mr Wiesenthal said that, unlike 25 years ago, when the war criminal Adolf Eichmann was tracked down to Argentina by himself, then kidnapped by the Israelis to face trial in their country, this was not possible in the case of Dr Mengele.

Even if convicted Dr Mengele was unlikely to serve any sentence, Mr Wiesenthal added. "As a doctor he knows how to make himself unfit to be in jail."

Hundreds of thousands of Danish workers staged mass protest demonstrations yesterday in a day of action called by shop stewards to mark continuing opposition to the economic austerity measures of the Conservative-Liberal Government.

Observers said, however, that the day of unofficial protest marked the high tide of the three-week old labour unrest in Denmark and predicted that the country would now return to normal after experiencing some of the most vehement worker revolt since the second World War.

The Danish Employers' Federation estimated that about 10 per cent of private sector workers downed tools to take part in anti-government demonstrations.

Over 100,000 Danish workers demonstrated outside Parliament here and similar mass protests were staged in provincial cities.

Public transport buses did not run in Copenhagen and morning commuter train services were disrupted by 200 workers who staged a sit-in at

Le Pen to be excluded from coalition deal

Fear of French PR poll prompts accord by right

From Eduardo Cue, Paris

France's right-wing parliamentary opposition yesterday signed a joint accord of principles in which it agreed to "govern together and only together" if it wins control of the legislature.

The move was prompted by the fear that the new proportional representation election law will lead to splits preventing the opposition from gaining control of the National Assembly in next year's legislative elections.

The agreement between the Gaullists RPR Party and the centre-right UDF precludes, one year before the vote, any eventual governing coalition not only with M Jean Marie Le Pen's extreme-right national front, but also with moderate Socialists.

The new election law, formally approved by the government yesterday, has already led certain segments of the UDF, such as the Republican Party, to put aside their differences and join in the signing of the declaration.

Agreement between the various factions of the parlia-

mentary opposition, which excludes M Le Pen's movement, was made easier by the ambiguous language of the agreement. The only specific promise is to restore the system of majority voting which the Socialist government wants to replace. The details of a governing programme of the right are to be made known by the end of the year.

Yesterday's declaration, signed by M Jacques Chirac for the RPR and Mr Jean Lecanuet for the UDF, set forth four major objectives. The reinforcement of public liberties, a diminution of the government's role in daily life, the rebuilding of the French economy including the progressive denationalization of public enterprises, and a very Gaullist promise to ensure France's independence in foreign affairs.

Also included in the text is a vow to limit the number of immigrants, an emotionally-charged issue given the current rise in racist-inspired crimes.

The government's plan, which will replace the current two round majority voting by a

system of proportional representation at the departmental level, is intended to ensure that the socialists, while not enjoying control of the assembly, will never the less be the single most important faction around whom all governing coalitions must be formed.

The plan is also expected to give about fifty seats to the National Front.

The new law, which will receive certain assembly approval despite divisions it has caused within the ruling Socialists, will increase the number of deputies by 86 for a total of 571, or one representative for each 108,000 citizens. The debate unleashed by proportional representation took several leaps on Tuesday with the publication in *Le Monde* of an article by Socialist Party Secretary General Lionel Jospin in which he argued that the basic institutions of the Fifth Republic, including the existence of a prime minister, the equilibrium between the president and the legislature, and the right of the former to dissolve the latter, should be changed.

Los Angeles mayor wins fourth term

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

Mr Tom Bradley, by winning a record fourth term as Mayor of Los Angeles, has shown he will become a major contender next year for the job that narrowly eluded him three years ago that of Governor of California.

After crushing Councilman John Ferraro to win another four-year term, Mr Bradley, aged 67, said: "I can rightfully claim an historic victory with the greatest margin in the history of the city."

Although final figures were not in, it appeared Mr Bradley, a black sharecropper's son and former policeman, won about 60 per cent of the vote against his opponent's 32 per cent.

Poll had shown him leading his Republican rival who had fought a bitter and sometimes savage campaign against the popular mayor.

The margin of his victory shows he still has strong support in heavily-populated southern California which he could use if he decides to run again for governor of America's most populous state.

After last year's successful Olympic Games, Mr Bradley is a more recognizable national figure and it is rumoured he could also be a candidate for the US Senate.

Mr Ferraro spent well over \$1 million trying to unseat the mayor who also ran an expensive campaign, outpacing his opponent.

Mr Bradley's campaign ran television commercials featuring the Los Angeles Olympic Organization Committee president, Mr Peter Ueberroth, saying that if they gave a gold medal for leadership, Mr Bradley deserved one.

Police blamed for wrong version of Cape shooting

From Michael Horasby, Johannesburg

The Commissioner of the South African Police, General Johan Coetzee, said yesterday the police were to blame for the inaccurate account of the March 21 shooting of 19 blacks near Uitenhage given to Parliament by Mr Louis Le Grange, the Minister of Law and Order.

General Coetzee was giving evidence to the judicial commission of inquiry into the incident, being held under a Supreme Court judge in the magistrates' court in Uitenhage. The inquiry began on March 27

The minister's statement had been based on incorrect information from police in the Eastern Cape area, which led him to believe petrol bombs had been thrown and that part of one with fingerprints on it had been found at the scene of the shooting.

General Coetzee also said tear gas canisters were available in the Uitenhage police stores on March 21 and Lieutenant Johna Fouché, the officer commanding the unit involved in the shooting, should have asked to be supplied with them.

Croats tried for terror bomb blasts

From Dassa Trevisan, Belgrade

Twenty-three Yugoslavs alleged to have belonged to a Croatian separatist organization have gone on trial in Croatia on charges of terrorism. According to the indictment, the defendants were responsible for bomb explosions in several towns in Croatia, arms smuggling and the distribution of hostile propaganda leaflets. They were also accused of recruiting followers in the country.

The group, which called itself the "Croatian Fighting Unit", is alleged to have maintained contact with Croatian exiles in West Germany, whose programme is to set up an independent Croatia.

Ivo Tabanovic, one of the defendants, was tried separately. In the course of his trial he admitted to having planted two bombs which did not cause any casualties. He was given a 14-year sentence.

Another group of 11 nationalists, including the group's leading figure, went on trial earlier this week in Varazdin, a town in the north-west of the country. The trial of the remaining members of the clandestine organization is to open in Zagreb, the Croatian capital, today.

Stjepan Deglin, the alleged leader of the group and organizer of subversive activities who worked in West Germany, for a number of years, said at his trial in Varazdin that the aim of the organization was not to kill, but rather to force the regime through terrorist acts to engage in a dialogue with the nationalist opposition.

He added that his aim was to establish political pluralism as well as the setting-up of a looser Yugoslav confederation in which Croatia could enjoy greater autonomy.

There have been several bomb explosions in Croatian towns in the past two years, but apart from some material damage, they claimed no casualties.

Burkina Faso and Ghana to integrate

Accra (AFP) - Ghana and neighbouring Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta) are drawing up plans for the political integration of their two countries.

An official communiqué issued at the end of a three-day meeting in Ouagadougou of the Ghana-Burkina Faso Co-operation Commission, said they would consolidate the revolutions undertaken in both states.

Relations between Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, Ghana's leader, and Burkina Faso have warmed since Captain Thomas Sankara took power in an August 1983 coup backed by trade unions and left-wing political groups.

In a speech last year, Captain Sankara said the young Ghanaian leader had provided "clandestine support" for the Ouagadougou coup.

Drought in Africa takes toll of sand martins

By Tony Samstag

British populations of the sand martin, among the first migrant species to be sighted in March or April, have been devastated by the drought in Africa. The British Trust of Ornithology has reported.

The numbers of birds "reached their lowest ebb in recorded history last summer", and fuller reports of counts at colonies conducted during 1983 and 1984 make "horrible reading", the trust says in *BTO News*.

Sand martins winter in the Sahel zone, in West

COUNTS OF SAND MARTIN HOLES			
Region	No. of colonies	Total holes	Total birds
SW England	10	428	54
East Angles	5	306	88
West Midlands	8	375	5
S. Wales Borders	0.5	100	0.15
Mid and W. England	0.5	375	339
North England	7	1,200	250
North and South Scotland	8	1,246	263
Co. Wicklow	0.6	4,548	1,307
Totals	66	12,548	1,307

Source: BTO News (estimated counts)

Africa. The 1984 decline, which averages 71 per cent in 66 colonies in the British Isles in one year, makes it the second time since 1969 that drought in the Sahel has affected the species.

Women in Budd race demo fined

Two women who forced Zola Budd, the South African-born athlete, to drop out of the English Women's Cross-Country Championship on February 16 were each fined £75 yesterday.

Sheila Sen and Hannah Schaffer, both aged 21, and both of Bentley Road, Liverpool, admitted using threatening behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace at Arrow Park, Birkenhead, Merseyside.

Mr Martin Decker, for the prosecution, told Wirral Magistrates' Court at Birkenhead that Sen ran on to the track shouting: "You fascist bastard".

Mengele trial 'vital for truth'

The Nazi war criminal Dr Josef Mengele must be brought to trial to silence those who would deny the wartime mass murder of Jews, Mr Simon Wiesenthal, who has led the hunt for fugitive Nazis said in London yesterday.

Mengele, now aged 74 the "Angel of Death", sent 400,000 people to the gas chambers at Auschwitz concentration camp where he also performed genetic experiments on Jewish prisoners. He is now thought to be living in Paraguay.

Mr Wiesenthal said that if Mengele were brought to trial, its importance lay not in the verdict. "What he has done cannot be punished. Can you punish someone who sent 400,000 to the gas chamber?"

"The trial is important as a historic and educational lecture for the new generation. In our time when we have so many who deny the reality of the Holocaust and the gas chambers, saying everything was a hoax, we need the trial against Mengele."

Mr Wiesenthal, aged 76, a former concentration camp inmate who is the director of the Jewish Documentation Centre in Vienna, was speaking at a press conference in London held during the first day of the fifth International Sakharov hearings. Named after the Soviet dissident Dr Andrei Sakharov, their brief is to inquire into the Soviet Union's observance of the clauses in the Helsinki agreement of 1975

In 1980, under pressure from the United Nations, Paraguay revoked Dr Mengele's citizenship, upon which he bought a valid passport for \$20,000, in a false name. This move, Mr Wiesenthal said, allowed the police in Paraguay to deny the doctor's existence.

Mr Wiesenthal said that, unlike 25 years ago, when the war criminal Adolf Eichmann was tracked down to Argentina by himself, then kidnapped by the Israelis to face trial in their country, this was not possible in the case of Dr Mengele.

Even if convicted Dr Mengele was unlikely to serve any sentence, Mr Wiesenthal added. "As a doctor he knows how to make himself unfit to be in jail."

Message of peace to honour dead

Nationwide services will celebrate VE day

By Alan Hamilton

Services of commemoration are being planned throughout the country for VE day on May 8 to mark the end of the Second World War and to celebrate 40 years of peace of Europe.

The headquarters of the Royal British Legion in London has been inundated with requests from many of its 3,500 branches for details of the national service of commemoration at Westminster Abbey, so that they may copy and repeat its order of service at local church services.

The response is in marked contrast to the Government's original intention that the day should pass unmarked by any official act of memorial. Ex-servicemen's organizations persuaded Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, to change her mind.

Two thousand people, chosen to represent the nation as a whole, will attend the Westminster Abbey service in the presence of the Queen. All ambassadors and high commissioners in London are also being invited, and the West German embassy confirmed yesterday that its Ambassador, Baron Rudiger von Wechmar, would be present.

Announcing the service in the Commons in February, the Prime Minister said its theme would be "to both honour the dead and recall the reconciliation and reconstruction that has been achieved in 40 years of peace with freedom and justice". Any sense of jubilation at the defeat of Germany will be carefully played down, and the contrast between the Nazi era and modern Germany will be emphasized.

Meanwhile two senior

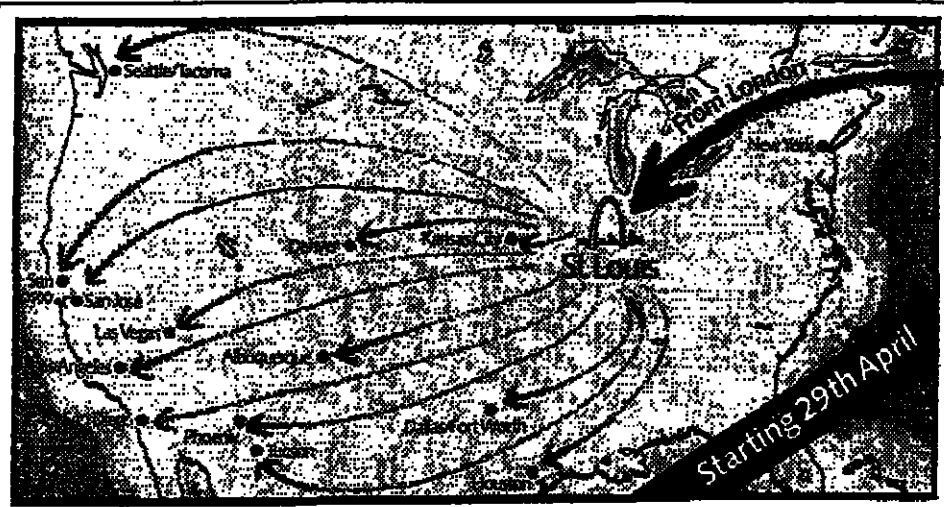
officials of the Royal British Legion, Mr Robert Scaife, the national vice-chairman, and Major Robert Tomlins, will travel to Moscow at the invitation of the Soviet War Veterans' Committee to attend VE Day celebrations there. They will also be present at an "International Meeting of Second World War Veterans" organized by the Soviet authorities, which is expected to be used as a platform for the official Soviet view on arms control in Europe.

The service at Westminster Abbey will be broadcast live on radio and television, beginning at 11.30 in the morning, but there will be no seats for the public in the abbey. All places are being allotted to representatives of relevant organizations. The Ministry of Defence is getting in touch with wartime entertainers, war correspon-

dents and broadcasters as well as ex-service organizations.

Among those to be represented are the Burns Star Association, the Far East Prisoners of War Association, the Eighth Army Association, the National Ex-Prisoner of War Association, the Women's Royal Voluntary Service, St John Ambulance, the Land Army, the British Red Cross, First Aid Nursing Yeomanry and the War Widow's Association of Great Britain.

Civilian bodies associated with the war are also being allocated places: State and industry, management and unions, and youth and welfare groups, as well as police, fire and ambulance services, civil defence, coastguards, Merchant Navy and Fishing fleets, the merchant air services, and the Women's Institute.



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White House signals cautious approach to superpowers summit

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The Reagan Administration is trying to calm speculation that agreement on a timing and agenda for a US-Soviet summit may be near by reiterating the President's long-held view that such a meeting must be carefully prepared and offer the prospect of achieving concrete results.

Briefing journalists, Mr Ronald Reagan, the White House chief of staff, emphasized that a lot of groundwork would first have to be completed and a meeting between President Reagan and Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, would have to hold the promise of being more than just a get-acquainted session.

"We think it would be a big let-down not only for Americans but also for the rest of the world - if the two leaders were to meet and accomplish nothing," Mr Reagan said. The President was against "just having meetings for meetings sake".

Mr Reagan was talking to White House correspondents in Santa Barbara, California, where President Reagan is spending a 10-day Easter holiday at his mountain-top ranch.

There has been considerable speculation that a Reagan-Gorbachev summit could take place at the time of the 40th anniversary celebrations of the founding of the United Nations in New York this autumn. However, Mr Reagan said that no time or venue had been agreed.

Mr Reagan was speaking several hours before Mr "Tip" O'Neill, the Democratic Speaker of the House of Representatives, who is leading a congressional delegation, presented a letter from President Reagan to Mr Gorbachev.

President Reagan first proposed a summit in a letter to Mr Gorbachev at the time of the funeral of President Chernomir in Moscow last month. The new Soviet leader sent an affirmative response to Mr Reagan earlier this month. The issue is to be further discussed at a meeting

which Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, is expected to hold with Mr Andrei Gromyko, his Soviet counterpart, in Vienna next month.

The Administration's more cautious approach to a summit is partly explained by Mr Gorbachev's statement last weekend which annoyed the Reagan Administration because of what it considers to be his propaganda call for a freeze on the deployment of medium-range missiles in Europe.

Mr Gorbachev announced a unilateral moratorium on the deployment of new Soviet medium-range missiles until November.

The US regards the latest Soviet move as aimed at public opinion in Western Europe. Mr Reagan said the offer was not a gesture of Soviet good faith.

The US claims the Soviet Union has already deployed 414 of its triple-warhead SS20 missiles of which 276 are targeted against Western Europe.

Nato, on the other hand, has only around 100 of its single-warhead cruise and Pershing 2 missiles in place in sites in Britain, West Germany, Italy and Belgium. A total of 572 cruise and Pershing 2 missiles are to be deployed.

The US says the Soviet Union is light testing a modified and more accurate SS20.



Good omen: Mr 'Tip' O'Neill with Mr Gorbachev after they met for nearly four hours at the Kremlin yesterday. Mr O'Neill said he saw a good omen about the chances of a summit.

Thatcher avoids the Indonesian 'wets'

From Our Correspondent Jakarta

The Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday narrowly avoided getting stranded in one of the worst tropical downpours to hit the Indonesian capital.

Earlier, Mrs Thatcher had almost two hours of talks with

President Suharto during which, Indonesian spokesmen said, they discussed Britain's abstention on the Timor vote in the United Nations, the world situation, trade, and investment and the Hong Kong-China agreement.

Indonesian officials said that Mrs Thatcher had asked for

further clarification on Timor and about allegations of human rights violations.

The Catholic Church and several human rights organizations have charged that Indonesian troops have massacred civilians and committed other abuses.

Leading article, page 13

Hong Kong deal ratified

People's Congress pleads for restraint

From Mary Lee, Peking

The two-week annual session of the National People's Congress - China's Parliament - ended yesterday after much public display of the teething problems associated with the economic reform programme.

The Congress adopted a resolution which emphasized the need to develop correct values and "oppose decadent capitalist and feudal ideas and those of other descriptions" while pursuing material advancement.

The Sino-British joint declaration on Hong Kong was ratified and it was decided to set up a committee to draft the basic law for the territory which becomes a special administrative Region when the British hand it back to Peking on June 30, 1997.

Hong Kong Chinese will be among the specialists and public figures on the committee, which will be named later, a concession which analysts believe was forced on Peking by Hong Kong pressure groups.

An inheritance law, China's first, was passed and will become effective on October 1. Some representatives said it did not combat traditional discrimination against women, allowing as it did, surviving spouses - usually women - to inherit only half the property.

Two surprisingly critical - even discordant - notes were also aired, the most startling being comments on "unhealthy tendencies" (corruption and

malpractices) and how these should be checked.

One member said correcting unhealthy trends should start from all departments of central government, implying that the problem was as great as the centre as at provincial level.

No one, however, repeated the People's Daily call for regulations governing wage increases and bonuses, generous payments of which led to a deficit of five million yuan (about £1.5 million), two million more than planned.

Observers say the congress analysis of the progress of economic reform was sober compared with what had been said immediately after the adoption of the Central Committee's decision on the nationwide restructuring of the economy.

The problems which have emerged in the form of "unhealthy tendencies" and over-spending, as well as the acknowledgement of a lack of experience across the board in implementing these reforms, has led the Congress to emphasize that the pace of change should rest in China's hands and the need for more control on "macro-economic activities".

The country should "guard against and correct the practice of putting exclusive stress on growth rate and focus on improving overall economic efficiency".

Carrington urges greater European defence identity

From Frederick Bonhart, Brussels

Lord Carrington, Nato Secretary General, said yesterday a collective European response should be made to the invitation by the United States to join the research programme for the strategic defence initiative.

Stressing the need for far greater cohesiveness in European defence, he said in Paris he was convinced that "the field of arms production and procurement is the key to a stronger European defence identity".

In an oblique criticism of the French position in Nato, Lord Carrington emphasized the strength of Nato due to its integrated military structure - from which France withdrew in 1966 while remaining a member of the alliance - and regular exercises.

He compared this with the Western European Union which had neither, but was one of several different European groupings which appeared to be "a case of mismanagement on an epic scale".

"I passionately believe that Europe needs to be and needs to be seen to be, more energetic in its own defence," Lord Carrington said.

He saw two alternatives, either an end to the two-way

street in transatlantic arms sales and consequent purchases from the most efficient producer - which would therefore often be an American - or the creation of a European armaments industry worthy of the name.

While WEU countries had spent \$6.5 billion in research and development in 1982, the US had spent \$20 billion and was planning to spend more than \$30 billion in 1985, excluding nuclear energy and Nasa. Hence the huge imbalance in favour of the US in the transatlantic arms trade.

MOSCOW: The Dutch Foreign Minister Mr Hans van den Broek spent more than three hours here with his Soviet counterpart, Mr Andrei Gromyko, but their talks apparently failed to bring the two sides closer together on missile deployment (Reuter reports).

Before leaving Moscow, Mr van den Broek told a press conference he had explained the Dutch position, but he had been "somewhat disappointed" by Mr Gromyko's attitude. Holland, he said, would deploy cruise missiles from November 1, if the number of SS-20s deployed by Moscow was greater than on last June 1.

Homes set ablaze by lorry crash

Epinal (AP, Reuter) - A dozen homes were burnt down when a petrol tanker smashed into a house in the French village of Belval, 40 miles from here, killing the driver.

In other accidents, a lorry carrying 20 tonnes of carbon disulphide, which explodes when exposed to air, plunged off a bridge near Leucade, killing the driver, and a lorry carrying 17 tonnes of explosive butane and propane gas overturned on a main motorway, at Saint-Priest halting road and air traffic between Lyons and Grenoble for several hours.

39 killed in bus crashes

Delhi (Reuter, AFP) - Twenty-six Indian tourists were killed and 61 were injured, five when their bus from Calcutta plunged into a 400-ft road linking Jamnani with Srinagar.

At Gaidakot in neighbouring Nepal on Sunday, a bus carrying 85 passengers careened off the road, plunging 1,000 ft. 13 people died and 22 were seriously injured.

Kangaroo attack

Sydney (AP) - Katie Schmidt, aged 12, and her father survived a mauling by a giant kangaroo on the outskirts of the remote Australian bush town of Geraldton in Western Australia, residents reported. Both were bitten.

Satellite TV

Berne (Reuter) - Switzerland yesterday approved plans for development of private satellite television. Interested parties have until July 31 to present their arguments before the matter is sent to Parliament for final review.

Climbing costs

Katmandu (Reuter) - Mountaineers will face 10 per cent higher charges to scale Nepal's Himalayan peaks in the autumn. An Everest expedition will have to pay \$3,000.

Briton expelled

Comiso (Reuter) - Patricia Melander, aged 36, from Chained herself to railings in the main square of this town near a US cruise missile base has been given 24 hours to leave Italy, police said.

Lebanese PM shuns Cabinet

From Our Correspondent Beirut

Angered by the Government's inability to restore peace in the southern port city of Sidon, Lebanon's Sunni Muslim Prime Minister Mr Rashid Karami yesterday announced that he would boycott Cabinet meetings until a ceasefire was agreed.

His decision was quickly followed by an announcement from the Education Minister, Mr Salim el-Hoss, that he would follow suit.

The move shuns that four of the 'Lebanese Cabinet' members are no longer prepared to take part in Government business, which they regard as ineffective. The Druse leader, Mr Walid Jumblatt, and the 'Shia' Muslim leader, Mr Nabih Berri, withdrew some time ago.

Mr Karami's decision was announced after Tuesday's ceasefire broke down in Sidon. Christian militiamen in the hills to the east have been bombarding the city for 13 consecutive days, drawing reinforcements from Muslim militias and Palestinian fighters in the refugee camps on the city's eastern edge.

Police figures indicate that 59 people have been killed and more than 260 injured since the fighting began on March 29.

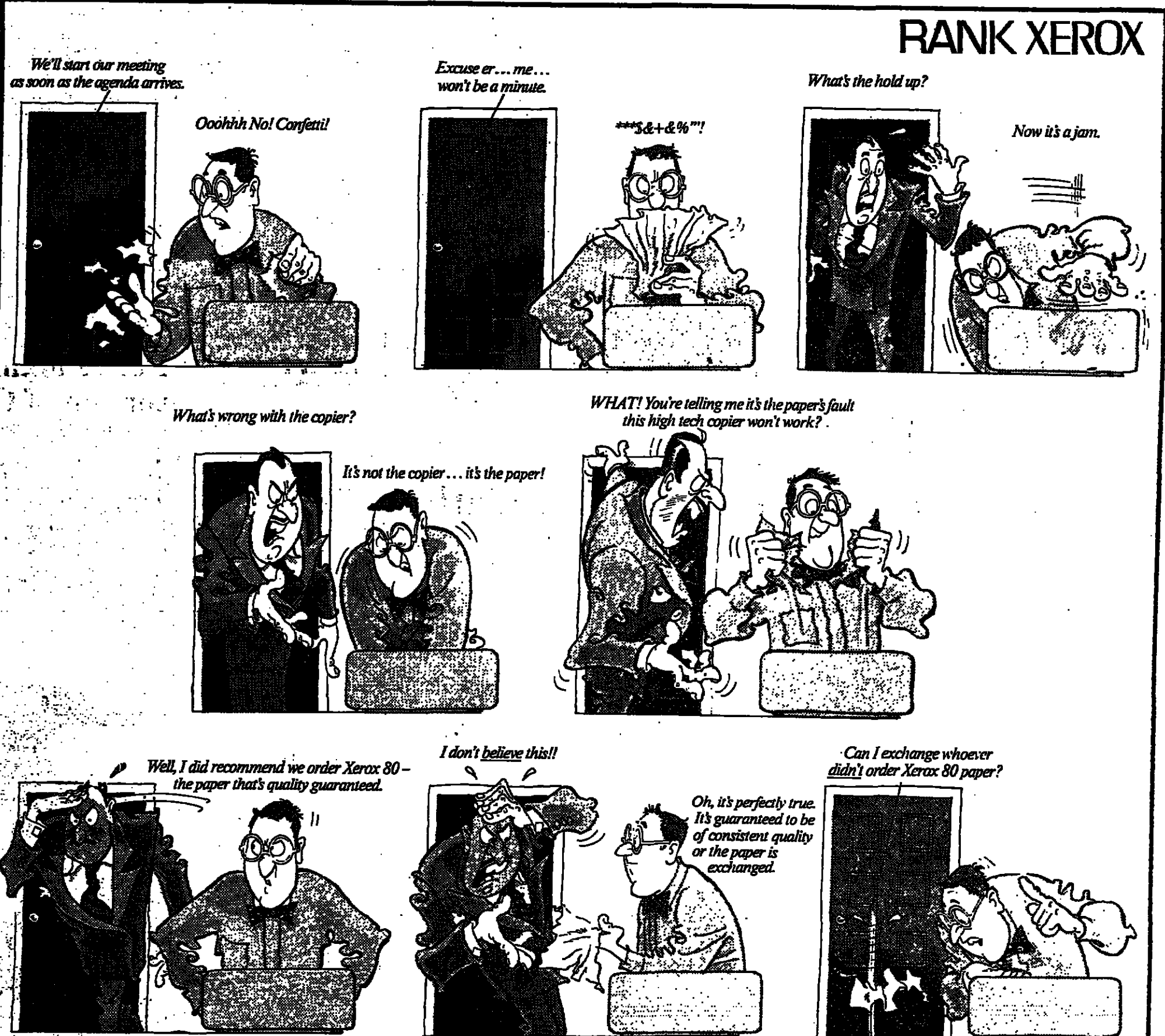
Government efforts to stop the battles by deploying more Lebanese Army troops have been delayed because the Christian fighters have declared their loyalty to Mr Samir Geagea, the Lebanese Forces militia commander who broke with President Amin Gemayel last month.

Mr Karami made it clear he was not resigning. He said that he would "continue contacts" to try to restore order in Sidon.

He said after yesterday's Cabinet, "I consider the Sidon issue essential for the march towards Lebanon's salvation, and since the Cabinet has been unable to handle the issue fruitfully, I shall abstain from attending any Cabinet meetings until all the snags and complications are resolved."

Mr Karami has used a similar tactic before to get the Government moving.

He agreed to serve until a replacement was named, knowing that no Sunni would accept the post under the prevailing conditions. Egypt's President Nasser intervened and mediated the so-called "Cairo Accord" which gave the Palestinians the right to maintain an armed presence in Lebanon.

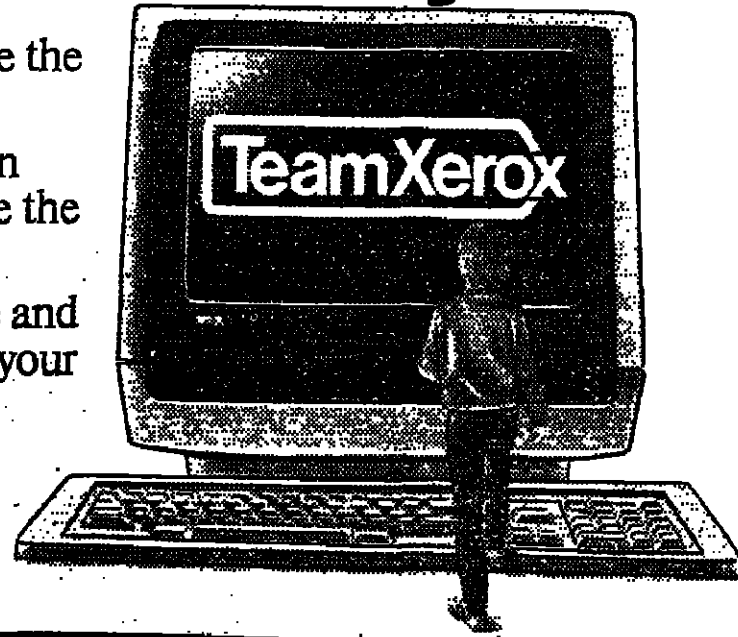


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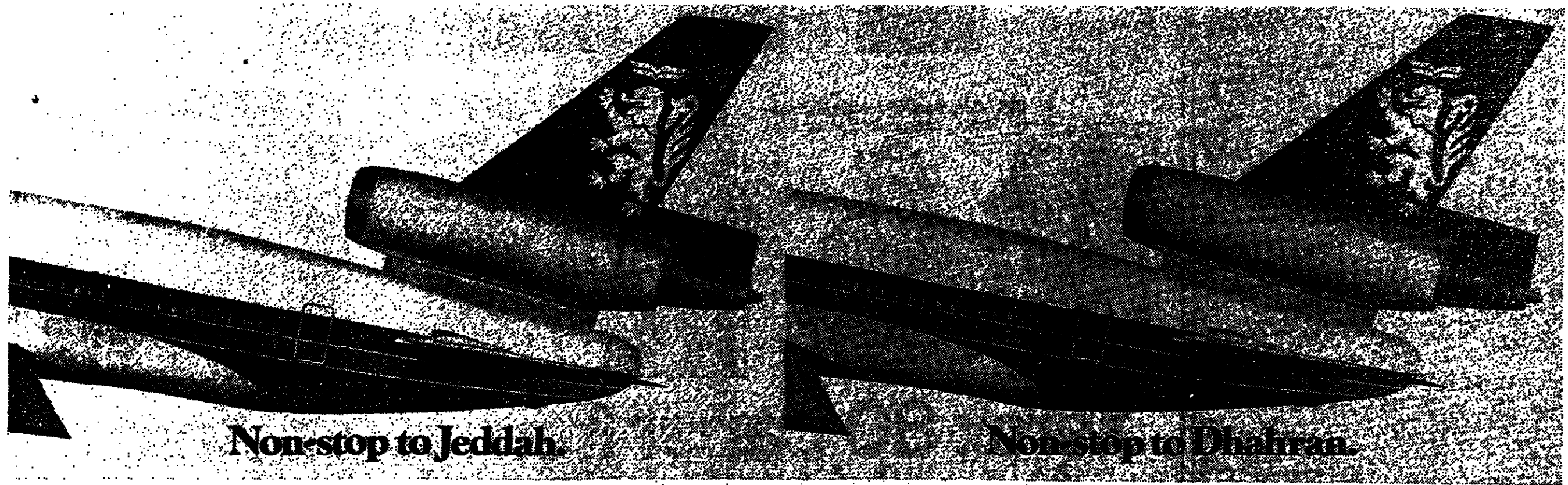
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Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

Howe balances criticism of Czech rights record with friendship

Mr Gorbachev cannot be feeling altogether pleased today if he was hoping that his Euro-missile moratorium would stampede West European opinion. He has won the approval of some leading figures in opposition parties, like Mr Denis Healey and Mr David Steel. He may have put an extra snap into the strike of the protest marchers over the weekend. But the only encouraging word he has received from any West European government has come from the Italian Prime Minister, Signor Bettino Craxi, who regards Mr Gorbachev's initiative as "proof of a desire for dialogue".

Others consider it proof of a desire for propaganda. The timing of the offer and of the expiry date seem to be related too obviously to the visit of the Dutch Foreign Minister to Moscow now and to the Dutch decision on deployment in November.

The Soviet leader is in effect inviting the West to freeze the present gross imbalance between the number of Euro-missiles deployed by the Warsaw Pact and Nato. Once such a moratorium had been accepted, the East would have no incentive to end an arrangement that was so much to its advantage and the West would be able to do so only at a propaganda price.

The Soviet initiative is, indeed, even less of a sacrifice than it might seem. There are calculated to be about 300 sites in Western Europe on which it would be worth the Soviet Union targeting its SS-20s, and it already has more than 400 of them with three warheads on each missile.

Summit not the place to negotiate

When there is so much excess capacity on one side there clearly might be circumstances in which an equality of security could be provided without an absolute equality of numbers. But Mr Gorbachev's proposal does not approach that point.

If it were accepted, it might well distort the purpose of the meeting between President Reagan and Mr Gorbachev that seems certain to be held sometime later this year. Such summits can be useful either in setting a seal upon an agreement that has already been negotiated in detail, or in creating a political atmosphere in which such negotiations can succeed.

But a summit is not the place to conduct the negotiation itself. That is especially true with a President like Mr Reagan whose grasp of detail is not his strongest asset.

Yet if the summit were to be held in the United States in the autumn, to fit in with the United Nations General Assembly in New York, all attention might be focused on whether the two leaders could achieve a breakthrough on the missiles so as to prolong the moratorium beyond the beginning of November. The meeting and the deadline would be uncomfortably close.

Seeing exercise as propaganda

Even by making his proposal public Mr Gorbachev has interfered with the process of negotiation at Geneva. He has not broken the letter of the agreement to keep those negotiations secret. That applies strictly only to the delegations themselves.

But by going public with an offer that has been made at Geneva, Mr Gorbachev has served notice that the Soviet Union sees that exercise in terms of propaganda as well as negotiation. That is something that the West must take into account.

The last proposal that the United States made on intermediate range nuclear forces before the previous negotiations ended in December 1983 was for a global ceiling of 420 warheads on each side. American negotiators indicated that while the United States would match the number deployed by the Soviet Union in Europe, it would not take up its full global entitlement.

This arrangement would have three advantages: a balance of strength in Europe, equality of rights globally, but flexibility in practice as the United States would have no incentive to match the deployment of Soviet SS-20s in Asia. The offer remains open and will no doubt be retailed at Geneva if it has not been already.

If it deadlocks develops the West will need to launch a new public initiative on INF before the end of the year. It cannot allow the impression to be created that only Mr Gorbachev is prepared to seek fresh openings in the search for agreement.

From Roger Boyes, Prague

this was Prague's "paleful spot". As if to underline his message, security police closely monitored the home of Dr Jiri Hajek on the outskirts of Prague. Dr Hajek, a former Czechoslovak Foreign Minister, and signatory of the human rights Charter 77, has often expressed his readiness to meet visiting Western foreign ministers. Yesterday, dissidents have said, Dr Hajek was "encouraged" to stay at his weekend cottage outside the capital.

Sir Geoffrey is the first British Foreign Minister to visit Czechoslovakia since the Warsaw Pact intervention of 1968. The Soviet-led invasion was followed by a wide-ranging purge, and a repressive policy towards nonconformists. Human rights then were inevitably an important issue in the Foreign Secretary's visit, and he marched in step with the genuine desire to improve relations between Britain and Eastern Europe.

At a banquet given by Mr Choupek, Sir Geoffrey echoed the sentiments of the Charter 77 document, which has been signed by over 1,000 sympathisers.

The Helsinki Final Act agreement signed 10 years ago was crucial to relations between East and West, the Foreign Secretary said. "The human rights freedoms underwritten by

this agreement constitute the features of civilised life."

The Helsinki human rights articles established the code, he said. "Codes are meant to be observed, but when from time to time we have reviewed performance under the Final Act (of Helsinki), we have not reached comfortable conclusions. In certain important respects the code has not been fully honoured. It has not brought the full benefits it should have brought for all Europeans. We must all take steps where necessary to remedy that situation."

Sir Geoffrey also ended off an attempt to make him seem an ally of the Warsaw Pact in its opposition to President Reagan's Star Wars programme. Mr Choupek quoted with obvious approval Sir Geoffrey as saying that "There would be no advantage in creating a new Maginot Line of the 21st century."

But the British Foreign Secretary promptly adapted his prepared speech to counteract this reference, and pointed out that "the Soviet Union has long been engaged on a large-scale on this space research. No one at the moment can know the results of that research."

But, he emphasized, whatever the results it should be regarded as being restricted by existing treaties.



The 800-year-old Djame (Friday) Mosque in Isfahan, one of Iran's most historic buildings, which suffered extensive damage to the altar, ceiling and courtyard in a recent Iraqi attack

US shifts policy over Cambodia aid

The Reagan Administration, in an important shift of policy, is leaving open the possibility of giving American military assistance to two non-Communist Cambodian guerrilla groups. (Our Washington Correspondent writes).

But State Department officials the US still believed the main aid for the non-Communist

insurgents fighting the Vietnamese in Cambodia should come from countries in the region.

The US had confined itself to economic and humanitarian help, but the House foreign affairs committee last Wednesday approved a \$5 million authorization to the two main

non-Communist Cambodian resistance groups.

The aid and related questions were being discussed yesterday by Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, Mr Son Sann, who leads the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, and Prince Norodon Ranariddh, representing the Nationalist Army of Prince Sihanouk.

Rain brings relief but Africa still needs food

Rome (AFP) - There have been some improvements in Africa's food situation, although it remains serious in many countries and "critical" in six, including Ethiopia and Sudan, a conference was told here yesterday.

Representatives of 40 industrialized and Third World countries were told by Mr Edouard Saouma, the director-general of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, that drought had diminished in a large part of southern Africa.

Zimbabwe's maize production had "excellent" prospects and Zambia should be out of danger in a few weeks with the new harvest. Other countries in the region are still suffering shortages.

In East Africa, the harvests should be better in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania. But in Ethiopia the secondary harvest, known as the *berg*, threatens to be disastrous because of delayed rains. In Sudan, "only emergency action on the part of the international community will allow the threat of general malnutrition to be staved off", Mr Saouma said.

In the West African Sahel region, where there has been light but persistent rain, there are grounds for optimism.

● **MOGADISHU:** Forty-seven more people have died of cholera in the northern Somali town of Hargeisa in the past two days, bringing the death toll since the outbreak two weeks ago to 1,650.

Bonn killing prompts envoy recall

From Frank Johnson, Bonn

West Germany's Ambassador to Libya, Herr Rolf Enders, was yesterday called home "for consultations" after the murder, in a crowded shopping area here on Saturday, of a Libyan opponent of Colonel Gaddafi.

There was intense interest in the fate of the assassin, Fatahi el Tarhoni, aged 29, who fired several shots at Gebrul el Denali, aged 30, and also wounded two shoppers. The question was whether the murderer would be imprisoned after trial or extradited for fear of reprisals against Germans in Libya.

A West German television crew filming outside the Libyan Embassy - which, in other countries, describes itself as the Libyan People's Bureau - was said to have been hauled inside and had its film exposed.

The sequence of events brought demands for strong action from conservative politicians.

There are thought to be about 1,500 Germans in Libya, mainly engaged on contracts of considerable value to West German companies. Since the murder, there have been signs of a growing feeling that Bonn should forego such economic benefits if they mean the country is impotent in the face of Libyan outrages on West German soil. But the government seems unprepared to put at risk its nationals in Libya. West Germany has been more conciliatory towards Libya than has Britain. There are no Libyans in jail for terrorism.

In 1980, another anti-Gaddafi Libyan was murdered in Bonn. The two assassins were caught, but subsequently returned to Libya in exchange for imprisoned Germans.

● **ENVOY OUT:** Iraq expelled a high-ranking West German diplomat for alleged interference in Baghdad's internal affairs, the Iraq Embassy in Bonn said yesterday (AP reports).

Herr Helmut Arndt, the First Secretary, has been given seven days to leave.

Palestinian changes his evidence

From Martha de la Cal, Lisbon

The Palestinian on trial in Albufeira for the murder of Issam Sartawi, the moderate PLO leader at the Socialist International Congress in 1983, has changed his evidence and denied he is Muhammad Rachid, the name under which he is being tried.

Claiming to be Youssef Al-Awad, a Moroccan, he yesterday on the second day of his retrial accused Portugal of "collaborating with the enemies of the Palestinian people" and warned this would not go unpunished.

He rejected evidence from the Israeli police which identified him by his fingerprints, as Arab El Arabi Tawfic Gamal and that he was born in Israel in 1957.

He claimed he had admitted to taking part in the plot "to appear as a hero" to the Palestinian people. Issam Sartawi had been condemned to death by Fatah for advocating "imperialism and Zionism" talks he said.

At his first trial he was acquitted of murder and given a three year prison sentence for carrying a false passport. The Supreme Court ordered a retrial because of threats to witnesses and the jury.

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Drug baron faces lifetime behind bars Mexico's 'wild man' caged

From John Carlin, Mexico City

Criminal proceedings have begun here against the suspected Mexican drug boss, Señor Rafael Caro Quintero, believed by US officials to have ordered the kidnap and brutal murder in February of American drug enforcement agent Enrique Camarena.

In a tiny courtroom packed with reporters, a haggard Señor Caro Quintero looked on passively as a judge's assistant read a confession he had allegedly made to police during more than 80 hours of interrogation. He was arrested in Costa Rica last week and extradited.

Costa Rica police, acting on a tip from US investigators, captured Señor Caro Quintero, aged 35, and four bodyguards at one of two mansions he is said to own in the hills overlooking San José. With him was his 17-year-old lover, Sara Cosío, daughter of a high-society family in the Mexican city of Guadalajara.

The family claimed she had been abducted from her home last month by the tall, moustachioed Señor Caro Quintero. When she was interviewed on Costa Rica television, it became apparent that she had decided voluntarily to enjoy the fast-limousine lifestyle of the "wild man", as Mexican police call him. Señor Cosío said he loved her and they had planned to get married.

Señor Caro Quintero, already accused of international drug trafficking, is due to be charged with masterminding the Camarena murder, according to Mexican police. He faces a

maximum jail sentence of 40 years. At the very least, he will be deprived of Señorita Cosío's company for the next eight months.

Under Mexican law, one is guilty until proved innocent. Señor Caro Quintero, believed to have started in the drug business at the age of seven, will remain in jail for between eight and 12 months while the defence prepares his case.

At the first stage of proceedings on Tuesday, he said his confession had been extracted under torture. He told the court he had been blindfolded and beaten. Police, he claimed, had also poured soda water down his nose.

According to the confession, which he now denies, he owned a vast plantation, including the 8,000 tons of marijuana seized and burnt by police last November. The burning of the crop, destined for the US market, is believed to have cost Señor Caro Quintero \$50 million (about £41 million). Police say the US agent, Mr Camarena, had been a key figure in the drug seizure and it was in revenge that Señor Caro Quintero ordered his killing.

In spite of the loss of his crop, Señor Caro Quintero is said to be extremely wealthy. According to police sources, he has an estimated fortune of more than \$300 million, a Lear jet and private runway at his Mexico home. He was able to afford 300 luxury cars allegedly distributed as gifts to government officials in exchange for complicity in his drug business.



In the dock: Señor Caro Quintero at Tuesday's hearing

Star Wars denounced by EEC Socialists

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

President Reagan's "Star Wars" research programme risks destabilizing world peace, the Socialist and Social Democrat parties of the EEC warned here yesterday.

A compromise resolution, which also denounced Moscow's development of anti-satellite weapons, was approved at the end of the two-day meeting on defence. It had required hours of behind-the-scenes talks by party leaders.

The amended resolution reflected differences between Socialists in power like the Italians and more radical elements who wanted to highlight condemnation of the US Strategic Defence Initiative.

The need for the EEC countries to adopt a more independent stance toward the super powers in defence and economic matters was a main theme of the meeting of the Confederation of Socialist Parties of the European Community.

Señor Alfonso Guerra, the Spanish Deputy Prime Minister, demanded that Europe should have a direct voice in the Geneva talks, arguing that whatever emerged, Europe's own survival was involved.

European Socialists also attacked the Reagan Administration for the "irresponsible evolution of American monetary policy".

Led by the Dutch Socialists, those demanding outright rejection of Star Wars insisted it was illogical to speak about giving Europe a more independent profile when in defence and monetary matters, it reacted only to Washington's moves.

Delegates argued that collaboration with the US on Star Wars would prevent Europe developing its own space research for peaceful use.

Britain's Labour Party stood alone among the European Socialists, abstaining when it came to proposals to strengthen EEC institutions.

"We are extremely sorry to disagree but that will be no surprise," Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody said. Labour, she explained, did not believe European union was the best way forward, maintaining it would be more logical for Socialist policies to be co-ordinated by the governments.

In marked contrast, Señor Felipe González, Spain's Prime Minister, promised that once in the EEC, his country "will advance along with those who want to advance" toward greater European integration.

Irreparable loss to Galapagos wildlife as fire is checked

Galapagos Islands (NYT) - The man-made inferno that has ravaged the largest island in the Galapagos group for the last month seems finally to be more or less under control. But the unique plants and animals that make these islands a natural laboratory of evolution have suffered losses from which some groups may never recover.

"Once again, man has dealt a staggering blow to the wildlife of the Galapagos," Mr Godfrey Merlin, a British naturalist who has lived in the islands for the last seven years said. "This fire will not, by itself, cause the extinction of any species. But by killing off so much habitat, the fire has brought many groups a lot closer to the brink."

Fuelled by humus and roots up to six ft deep, the fire on Isabela island has devastated some 100,000 acres, roughly one quarter one quarter of the part of the island that supports vegetation. Most of Isabela, which is 50 miles long and 37 miles wide, is covered by bare, barren lava from its five active volcanoes.

By last Saturday, some 300 Ecuadorian soldiers and 140 local residents drafted as firefighters had dug a trench system about 30 miles long to contain the fire. Two flying boats sent by the Canadian Government were dumping sea water over hot spots along the fire's perimeter, and officials declared the fire to be under control.

But no one was speculating when it might be extinguished, because it will take a substantial rainstorm to do the job. Isabela has had little rain in eight months and it may be another year or more before the parched

island gets the soaking it needs. From a few miles away the fire is scarcely visible, and plumes of smoke appear only late in the day, when the hot sun accelerates burning. But the apparent safety of the area is deceptive, according to Miguel Lopez of the US Forest Service, one of the American advisers assigned here by the US Agency for International Development.

"In my 25 years fighting forest fires in the US," he said, "I've never encountered problems like the ones we've faced here. The heat is so intense we've become delirious at times."

The most famous species of animal affected by the fire is the giant Galapagos tortoise. Once hunted nearly to extinction, the Galapagos tortoise has been more or less protected from human predation in recent decades, and there are about 15,000 of the big reptiles scattered over six of the islands.

But of 15 original subspecies of tortoises in the Galapagos, four are now extinct, one has only a single surviving reptile (known by local scientists as Lonesome George) and five other subspecies have fewer than 500 survivors each.

Nesting birds are probably suffered from the fire more than other animals, and some species were already endangered. Among them is the rare dark-rumped (Hawaiian) petrel, one colony of which may have been nesting near the crater rim of Sierra Negra, an area burned out by the fire.

Of Isabela's 800 permanent residents, roughly 150 live in a

wilderness community called Santo Tomas south-east of Sierra Negra volcano. They make their living hunting wild animals, including the officially protected Galapagos tortoise, and by growing modest crops.

The fire started on February 26, when Santo Tomas residents set some diseased coffee bushes on fire. The blaze spread, and officials suspect that some secondary fires were lighted maliciously.

By consuming grasslands, the fire has attacked Isabela's reptiles and birds indirectly as well as directly. In common with most of the Galapagos islands, Isabela is infested with feral domestic animals, introduced over the centuries by human colonists and later abandoned. Wild cattle, pigs, goats and horses compete with tortoises and other endemic wildlife for fodder, and will make the survival of endemic species all the harder from now on.

Casualties of the fire also include several unique kinds of plants. According to Dr Henning Adersen, a botanist from the university of Copenhagen who is working at the Charles Darwin Research Station here, the fire has decimated a species of tree called *scalea cordata*.

Dr Gunther Reck, a German biologist who directs the Charles Darwin Research Station here, said he deplored the damage done by the fire but asserted that firefighting efforts may, in the long run, make matters even worse. The worst enemy of the habitats and creatures of the Galapagos islands is man, he said.

Artificial heart man on tax evasion charge

Stockholm (Reuters) - Europe's first recipient of an artificial heart, said to be in a satisfactory condition in a Stockholm hospital four days after his operation, was named by his lawyer yesterday as a 52-year-old businessman being tried on tax evasion charges involving £36,000.

Mr Bjorn Rosengren identified his client as Mr Lief Stenberg. He said he had asked for the charges to be dropped.

Swedish newspapers have reported that Mr Stenberg, twice married to the same woman, had built up a multi-million pound business empire from modest beginnings as a used-car salesman.

Former Bhutto aide criticizes new appointees as Zia installs Cabinet

From Hasan Akhtar, Islamabad

President Zia ul-Haq of Pakistan, yesterday in Rawalpindi installed 13 ministers and seven members of state as members of the Cabinet of Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, the new Prime Minister. Five of the ministers had served in General Zia's Government before Mr Junejo's appointment on March 23.

Although the oath-taking ceremony was held earlier in the day with military and civil officials and members of the National Assembly and Senate present, the Press Department, there was no official announcement, even six hours after,

about the distribution of Cabinet portfolios.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, who had been Foreign Minister under General Zia and in the interim period of the last 21 weeks is among the new ministers. Dr Mahbubul Haq, Nawabzada Abdul Ghafoor Hoti, Mr Mohyuddin Baluch and Mr Zafarullah Khan Jamali who were also in General Zia's Government, have been retained in the new Cabinet.

Meanwhile, Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, one of the closest political associates of the late Prime Minister Bhutto and the Sindhi leader of the 11 party opposition alliance, the Movement for Restoration of Democracy, attacked the new non-pol-

itical Government set up by General Zia, describing it as an attempt to legitimize continuation of martial law.

Mr Jatoi presented a 14-point charter to the new Government and demanded that a new constitution should be drawn up because the recent series of constitutional amendments by General Zia, had knocked off its federal character and now the four provinces were free to form sovereign and independent states under the 1940 All India Muslim League Resolution, which led to Pakistan's emergence in 1947.

Mr Jatoi said the opposition would talk to the Government only if it was invited and given a formal agenda for discussions.

Reagan policies hurt Cabinet member

Cash crisis for America's farm boss

Galesburg, Illinois (NYT) - Mr John Block, Secretary of Agriculture, is facing deepening personal financial difficulties that reflect the continued farm crisis that his department is trying to resolve.

He has acknowledged severe problems but says he is sure his situation will work out.

Mr Block's financial affairs became a matter of interest last summer, with reports of heavy indebtedness for some of his partnerships and large losses for one of his partners. Critics suggested it indicated a failure of the Reagan administration's farm policies.

Mr Block, the country's most prominent farmer, defended the policies and denied that he was in financial trouble. But

from disclosure statements and interviews with associates and others, a worsening financial picture has emerged that includes serious troubles with a farm in Minnesota.

He recently conceded that he faced personal financial difficulties, but said he was not atypical of farmers around America and that he was not in dire straits.

"I think the assessment is accurate. I don't own anything of consequence outside of farming, and when agriculture goes into a tailspin I ride that plane, too," he said.

Mr Block, aged 46, one of the country's bigger farmers, owns a 3,000-acre farm with his father, Mr J. W. Block, and his son, Mr Hans Block, and owns

other farmland in Illinois and Minnesota that he and several combinations of partners purchased before he took office. He has said that he left management of the family farm to his father and son and of other properties to partners or a trustee.

Mr Block, as a Cabinet officer, has filed four annual financial disclosures and another is due within the month. An examination of these statements, yields nothing to indicate any wrong doing. But the information does show large tracts of farmland Mr Block and several partners acquired in the 1970s produce no apparent income and generate large interest costs.

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SPECTRUM

The fine art of selling groceries

The Times Profile:
J. Sainsbury plc

The gift to the nation of a new extension for the National Gallery, costing perhaps £25 million, was an unusually public benefaction from a family much of whose good work has hitherto been done by stealth. It is the emergence as knights in shining armour of a fraternity who were gathering a reputation as the hard men of the grocery trade.

The Sainsburys are determinedly private people, controlling the country's eleven biggest companies. Estimates made when the Sainsbury share price was 276p (now it is 320p) - crediting the family with £900m; cousin David, the firm's finance director, with £487m; brother Tim, Conservative MP for Hove, with £170m; and Sir John Sainsbury, the company chairman, with £150m - are dismissed as meaningless and inaccurate. Indeed they do exaggerate. Since shares belonging to any trust in which any director has a residual interest have to be listed under each such director's name, there is a great deal of duplication.

In fact the family trusts are currently capitalized with a value just over £250m, and are the vehicles through which the family nurture what they consider good causes in the arts, education, medicine and business.

The trusts are code-named so that the Sainsburys can in most cases maintain their anonymity. Sir John and Lady Sainsbury's Linbury Trust (a conglomerate of their surnames) is known because of its public support of the artist cousin David's Gatsby Trust, came to public notice when it gave £1.25m to the London Business School to finance research into business strategy, and another large amount to the School of Tropical Medicine at Liverpool.

It was entirely typical of the family's love of privacy that no one knew of the late James Sainsbury's romance with the actress Kay Kendall until he died 31 years later and left the bulk of his £18m estate to set up the Kay Kendall Leukaemia Fund for research into the disease that killed her at the age of only 32.

But while the other great names in groceries faded away, or founding families yielded up the reins, the surviving Sainsburys have flourished even into the fourth generation. Their company is now likened by admirers to the last great feudal barony in England.

It started humbly enough in 1869,

with a dairy shop in London's Drury Lane. John James Sainsbury, brought up among the unhygienic street markets of the New Cut, Lambeth, quickly built up a chain of tiled and marble-counter shops throughout the working-class areas of the capital. He coined the phrase "visionary merchant" and when he died in 1928 left this world with the final order: "Keep the shops well lit".

His eldest son, John Benjamin, succeeded him and throughout the 1930s expanded the chain from London into southern England.

J.B.'s son Alan, the present Lord Sainsbury (of Drury Lane, in memory of the original shop), says he only went into the business instead of social service because his mother (a Van den Bergh of the Dutch margarine family) said it would break his father's heart if he didn't.

From 1938 he ran the business with his brother, now Sir Robert, and after a post-war visit to America made it company policy to go over to self-service. It was not universally popular. In Purley a judge's wife swore at him colourfully for expecting her to serve herself; another woman threw her wire basket at him.

Such experiences have not deterred the Sainsburys from visiting the shops regularly. The present chairman, Lord Sainsbury's eldest son, Sir John, visits 100 a year, often unannounced, to take a customer's eye view. He is not uncommonly accosted by shoppers. Usually they want to know why such-and-such is out of stock.

He is no less demanding of junior management, from whom he wants to know everything that is going on. He reviews each shop's operations with a quick and experienced eye. Last week at the Basildon Sainsbury Centre hypermarket (one of six owned jointly with British Home Stores) he spied an unfamiliar dairy product in a display. A query, a rustle of sales statistics, the product was not selling well, so it's fate was sealed. It would be sold no more.

Sir John runs his business on dictatorial lines, commanding respect as a tough and practical boss of a high-powered professional team. All his fellow-directors' offices at London's Blackfriars are on the same floor as his. It means they can get quick decisions. It is a company



Sainsbury's Peckham branch dressed for its opening in Rye Lane in 1931. Glass screens protected the meat and customers paid a clerk for their groceries

custom that directors follow the chairman's example of visiting stores. Three a week is a good average.

Trouble, directors admit, comes from the chairman, whose mild public manner can disappear into fury. This controlled use of temper and strict standards of discipline stem from a National Service as a Life Guards officer in Palestine.

One outsider who witnessed a Sainsbury's roast remarked on its savagery afterwards to a senior executive of the company. "Round here", the man replied wilyly, "we prefer to call it dynamism".

Sir John would like to have stayed at Oxford, but only if he could have satisfied himself that he might make a first class history don (like Lord Dacre, whom he much admired). Instead, after graduating from Worcester College, in 1950 he went behind the biscuit counter and then progressed to bacon buying. He introduced sweet-cure bacon to Britain, and then working with his

father built up the Sainsbury range of own-label products. A stickler for perfection, he still tests everyone of those personally.

His dinner guests are served exclusively Sainsbury foods. Since the launch of Vintage selection, in which Sainsbury gets to blazon its imprimatur on some of the most famous labels in the business, the occasions on which they are served anything but Sainsbury's wines have also become few.

Lady Sainsbury, the former principal ballerina Anya Linden, has never cooked a Tesco joint in her life.

A taste for dance runs in the family: Lord Sainsbury's undeterred divorce in 1938 was on grounds of his adultery with a Russian dancer in Monte Carlo. Sir John, not close to his father until he joined him in trade, was brought up by his mother.

Sir John and his wife are regulars among the audience at ballet nights

at the Royal Opera House (less frequently at opera), where their names and that of their Linbury Trust head the list of contributors to the development appeal fund. Sir John chaired the panel which selected Jeremy Dixon and Building Design Partnership as architects for the opera house extension. The method of selection - inviting a shortlist of architects to put forward ideas - is the one he will use for the National Gallery too.

Similarly he and brother Tim convened with the dons of their old college, Worcester, to choose Richard MacCormac as architect for the new lakeside hall of residence they were donating.

Sir John was himself a trustee of the National Gallery when it embarked on the ill-fated attempt to couple commercial and art development on the extension site. (As trustee, one of his contributions was to revolutionize the National Gallery shop). He thinks now that it was because he could not bear the thought that the site, empty since the war, should be wasted any longer that he broached with his brothers the idea that they should jointly fund its development.

Simon Sainsbury, the second brother and a chartered accountant, left the Sainsbury board in 1979 but retains his chairmanship of Sainsbury's art sponsorship committee, which sponsors £250,000 a year on the likes of Kent Opera, the Royal Ballet touring company, and an annual competition for choirs. Youngest brother Tim left the board after becoming an MP, but had until then been director in charge of

property and development. His interest in architecture goes beyond Sir John's, so while Sir John's country home is classically Queen Anne, Timothy inhabits a concrete exercise in Berkshire Brutalism which he commissioned from Denys Lasdun. It is described as a widespread version of the National Theatre.

Mr Tim's expertise and company experience inevitably cast him as the House of Sainsbury's junior advocate at the Palace of Westminster. (Lord Sainsbury, a former three-time Liberal candidate who became a Labour life peer and has now joined the SDP is, of course, the senior).

Timothy, churchy, earnest and aloof was an early advocate of London overspill. (He wrote a pamphlet about it for the Bow Group), supported the Channel Tunnel-backed metrification and direct elections to the European Assembly; and most recently, though an assistant whip, defied Government protocol by acting as an unofficial whip against the Shop Hours Bill.

Timothy's wife, Susie, is a model Conservative MP's wife - involved with the Christian Foundation, Christian Relief funds and the Council for One-Parent Families.

As chairman of Sainsbury's, Sir John has been more aggressively expansionist than any of his predecessors. He bestrides a fast changing world. The stores Sainsbury's open now are on average half as big again as those they were opening ten years ago. Every seventh bottle

of wine sold in Britain carries a Sainsbury label. Food manufacturers claim that in the south-east, Sainsbury and Tesco alone dominate nearly two thirds of the packaged grocery market. Sainsbury's own estimate is that they sell one tenth of all Britain's food.

The Office of Fair Trading has reopened the question of whether the discounts large retailers like Sainsbury's (who are the largest) can exact from food manufacturers are in the public interest. Sir John, noted for his rumbustious way with adversaries, is publicly arguing that the food manufacturers are monopolists themselves.

In other areas, significantly enough, his impatience is directed in pungent attacks against the planners for whom he has precious little use. They should decide, he says, where people can build, but not what bricks they should use, or what shape their windows should be.

All outline plans for new Sainsbury developments now go to Sir John, and those which win awards are proudly listed in the firm's annual report. But Sir John will tell anyone that he is not proud of stores that are the result of compromises with local planners.

"Sir John", said a recent lunchtime companion, "struck me as someone who had climbed on his pedestal and assumed the right to tell us all how things should be". We need not look for any more compromises in the saga of the National Gallery extension.

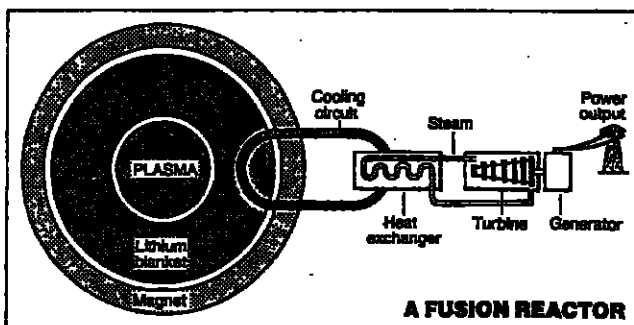
Robin Young

CHRONOLOGY

- 1869: John James Sainsbury opens shop in London's Drury Lane.
- 1881: Firm has 14 branches; headquarters moved to Blackfriars.
- 1911: 115 branches.
- 1928: J. B. Sainsbury succeeds J. J. as chairman.
- 1931: Alan and Robert succeed J. B. as joint general managers; 244 branches.
- 1938: Introduction of self-service; J. D. Sainsbury joins firm.
- 1967: Lord Sainsbury retires at 80; J. D. Sainsbury head of trading.
- 1967: Sir Robert Sainsbury retires; J. D. Sainsbury succeeds as chairman.
- 1969: Company goes public; the flotation is the most heavily oversubscribed to date.
- 1984: Pre-tax profit £138m.
- 1985: Sainsbury's is leading food retailer in UK with sales of £2,689m, 250 supermarkets, and investing £225m in property, building and equipment, and serving six million customers a week.

Pearce Wright, Science Editor, looks at the chances of safe unlimited nuclear energy

The promise of endless power



Scientists leading the world's research effort into fusion energy met in San Francisco last month. They reviewed the prospects for generating almost limitless amounts of power by reproducing the nuclear reactions that fuel the sun and the destructive force of the H-bomb. Any doubts about the future of nuclear fusion were demolished by the results from a laboratory in the heart of the English countryside, at Culham on the Thames in Oxfordshire.

Research in fusion is one of the most expensive investments being made into an alternative to coal, oil and nuclear fission for generating electricity. The attraction is that the fuel, deuterium, one of the heavy atoms of hydrogen, is virtually limitless because it is extracted readily from water.

The fusion machine at Culham, called the Joint European Torus, or JET for short, cost £175 million to build. And that is only part of a programme over the next 12 years costing £600 million. As its name implies, the project is a collaborative one paid for through the EC, but it represents only about one third of the effort in Europe on fusion. Complementary research is in progress at national laboratories in Britain, France, Germany, Italy and elsewhere.

Comparable ventures are also underway in the United States, Japan and Russia. Thus the investment in fusion, which began modestly 35 years ago, has cost £5 billion. The idea of fusion is not much more than 50 years old, and was originally conceived by astrophysicists to explain how stars like the Sun produced such immense amounts of energy.

The German director of the JET team, Dr Hans-Otto Wüster, provided last month's conference called *Fusion Break-even and Beyond* with critical scientific evidence, showing how theories could be put into practice. Other major discoveries were reported by international centres: from Princeton in the United States, two Japanese laboratories at Tokai and Osaka, and two separate projects at the American National Lawrence Livermore Laboratory at the University of California.

But the results from Culham were expected to form a crucial part of the review because the JET machine is the largest apparatus in the world for testing the basic physics of a future fusion power station. JET's purpose is threefold: to advance understanding of the thermonuclear reactions which so far have happened only in stars and fusion bombs, to demonstrate that the processes can be harnessed in a machine and to design a reactor which by the turn of the century will generate electricity.

The idea is simple enough. Fusion takes place when a pair

of atoms of the lightest elements, such as hydrogen, combine to form a heavier one like helium. This fusion yields a prodigious amount of energy. For every kilogram of fuel more than 100 million million joules of energy are released, or the equivalent of tens of thousands of tons of gas or oil.

However, this fortuitous union of atoms occurs only under exceptional conditions. The natural behaviour of identical atoms in a gas cloud of hydrogen is for them to repel each other. Reactions taking place in the sun or created artificially in a thermonuclear bomb occur at temperatures of 100 million degrees Centigrade. When gases are so immensely hot they behave like a fluid. Moreover, they can be squeezed into this plasma state by applying powerful magnetic fields around them - according to theory. Only then will the mutual repulsion the atoms have for each other be overcome.

Since there is no material on Earth which can withstand such high temperatures to provide a container for plasma, some special way is needed for holding the elements together until they fuse. The answer is to create a magnetic bottle. Although JET is the largest apparatus for fusion experiments there are various different methods being tested for harnessing plasma.

In the end the future of fusion will turn on a simple question. Can it provide the power to generate electricity at a reasonable price? Dr Wüster makes clear that routine power station reactors would have to be simpler than the device on which his team is working.

Interest in fusion as a source of energy was stifled in the 1940s and early 1950s by the security blanket on all nuclear work. Then the idea suffered an unfortunate setback in 1958 when a machine called Zeta was paraded before the world at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, as "the answer to fusion".

The reactions observed in the apparatus, turned out to be a rather different set of events

than those leading to controlled fusion. And to be fair to the scientists, it was politicians and scientists in government circles who made excessive pronouncements about cheap energy.

Fusion researchers have become increasingly confident that they can build devices using magnetic fields to hold plasma tightly enough for several minutes at a time so that fusion can take place and the energy be extracted. The problem has been to find the arrangement that gives the most efficient design for continuous operation.

The answer has come from the Soviet Union in a small machine which the Russians called a *tokamak*, which is derived from the Russian acronym for toroidal chamber magnetic. The Russians achieved such good results in 1969 that they invited a team of British scientists to check the findings, using special equipment which a team at the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority at Culham had developed for measuring super-hot plasmas.

On the basis of these preliminary tests, the scientists have the confidence to start designing NET, the acronym for the Next European Torus, which will generate electricity. The early experiments with JET show that temperatures required for fusion reactions are within reach. But the conditions are created only by using huge amounts of electrical energy. Clearly, if fusion is to produce useful amounts of power the energy produced must be much greater than that needed to start the system.

JET is a 100 ton machine, formed from unusually shaped components that stretch electrical and mechanical engineering to their limits. The main magnetic field is created by 32 D-shaped coils, each 5.7 metres tall, which surround the vacuum vessel giving a "toroidal" magnetic field for compressing the plasma. Should plasma at tens of millions of degrees succeed in touching the nickel-alloy wall of the vessel the metal would melt.

Once the Russian advance was confirmed, fusion laboratories round the world rushed to build variations. On the basis of that work the designs for the giant JET and the Princeton Tokamak Fusion Test Reactor (TFTR) were born.

THE JET project has been an exceptional example of international collaboration. The design team has been led by a brilliant and energetic French physicist, Dr Paul Rebut. The key experiments for measuring the state of the seething super-hot plasma to find out what is going on in the machine, referred to collectively as diagnostics, are being devised by a group led by Dr Roy Bickerton.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 616)

ACROSS
8 Right Kerm (5,8)
9 Bee (3)
10 At random (9)
11 Hair lock (5)
13 Qualify (7)
16 Regret (7)
19 Young keep (5)
22 Silly (9)
24 Animal's mother (3)
25 Hitler SS (13)
DOWN
1 Empty (6)
2 Globe (6)
3 Exaggerated masculinity (8)
4 Forehead corner (6)
5 Colonnade walk (4)
6 Occasionally changed animal (6)
7 Centre position (6)
12 Regret (3)
13 Charm (8)
15 Toss (3)
16 Lower tension (6)
17 Sorry state (6)
18 Self-centred person (21)
20 Slightly alter (6)
21 Try (6)
23 Porridge grains (4)

SOLUTION TO No 615
ACROSS: 1 Hecla, 4 Purnice, 7 Rash, 8 Tortuous, 9 Sociable, 13 Pen, 16 Multicoloured, 17 Gut, 19 Mesmeric, 24 Adhesion, 25 Diet, 26 Trusty, 27 Magnum
DOWN: 1 Harn, 2 Cassoulet, 3 Extra, 4 Peril, 5 Maul, 6 Crude, 10 Idiom, 11 Boots, 12 Elope, 13 Partition, 14 Nude, 15 Smug, 18 Under, 20 Edify, 21 Minin, 22 News, 23 Stem

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BOOKS

A Wind in the Wilios

Peter Jones

IN SEARCH OF THE TROJAN WAR
By Michael Wood
BBC, £10.95THE TROJAN WAR
Edited by Lin Foxhall and
John K. Davies
Bristol Classical Press, £9.95

Since the sight of what I assume was Wood's epic little bottom wiggling up Hisarlik had a powerful deterrent effect, I really am reviewing the book, not the show. The simple fact is that there is not one single piece of evidence, hard or soft, to connect the mound Hisarlik with Troy, let alone with a Trojan War against Greeks, let alone against Agamemnon. What there is, is Schliemann and a chain of hypotheses, dependent entirely upon circumstantial evidence, which begins "If there is a historical basis to Homer..." and ends with books like Wood's. One could just as well ask if there was a historical basis to Walt Disney's *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, and rush off to plunder the records of unstable matriarchal tyrannies in dense-lywooded, apple-growing regions with a thriving diamond-mining industry run by big game Seek and ye shall find.

That this is the case, Wood knows full well. He admits the evidence is entirely circumstantial and his book is full of ifting and butting and on-the-other-handing in the best tradition of the "scholar". If he had written the book as the history of an unsolved problem it would be rather good. Wood, after all, is a master of strong, lively simplification. But no. The telly, I assume, cannot bear too much reality, and Wood produces a fatuous "answer" (duly ifted and butted), the consequence of which is that a promising volume joins the Van Daniken *War Jests really a Mythos?* school of sci-fi pseudo-history. One's only hope is that it makes more people read Homer.

Those who want to understand the real issues and complexities of Troy, Ilus, or Wilios as we should all call it, must turn to the British Classical Press collection of papers from the 1981 Greenbank colloquium. They will find no pictures, long bibliographies, demanding papers, intensive discussion (excellently edited), and no conclusions. It is not just a matter of gathering the evidence, but of deciding what questions can be answered by it. In what sense do archaeological data answer historical questions, or "real stories"? (Not much.) If the *Iliad* is an 8thC literary creation, but one dependent on centuries of oral tradition, what cultural and political, let alone literary, transformations might it not have undergone, and how does one boil out a "Trojan war" from this mighty amalgam? (With difficulty.) What is the precise relationship between Homer's Greek, later Greek place-names, and Hittite? (Highly ambiguous: even the fact that Homer occasionally called the place "Troy" rather than Wilios tells us nothing historically.) Can one date the Hittite "evidence" for Greeks on the mainland? (Only very tentatively.) Few such nuts of solid ground in these treacherous, fascinating quicksands.

"How delicate, decent is English biography, bless its mealy mouth," protested Carlyle in a review of Lockhart's *Walter Scott*. "A Damocles sword of 'Respectability' hangs for ever over the poor English life-writer (as it does over poor English life in general), and reduces him to the verge of paralysis."

Biography had begun as praise. It was developed as a method of conferring historical endorsement on the lives of rulers and saints, instilling in its readers a spirit of admiration and the habit of imitation. As part of the machinery for preserving the status quo, it came to resemble a shapeless petrified jelly inside which some wobbling human remains were vaguely visible: a life in aspic.

It was Samuel Johnson who cleared all this away. He declared that the first business of the biographer was not necessarily to dwell on "those performances and incidents" which produce vulgar greatness, but to lead the thoughts of his readers to the habit of emulation. As part of the machinery for preserving the status quo, it came to resemble a shapeless petrified jelly inside which some wobbling human remains were vaguely visible: a life in aspic.

From Boswell to Strachey the best biographers have been an unrespectable crew, given atrociously to gossip and possessing the merit of bad taste - which is to say that they have not conformed to the polite fashion of their day. Even Carlyle, for all his brave opinions, had difficulty in accepting his own biographer, Froude. The honest biographer, it was said, had added a new terror to death. No wonder that writers as various as W. H. Auden, T. S. Eliot, Somerset Maugham, George Orwell, and Jean Rhys have forbidden official lives of themselves to be written. "Biographers are generally a disgrace to the English literature," concluded George Orwell.

One of the results of this unpopularity among writers is that literary biographers have felt themselves to be outside the family of literature. There are departments of history at our universities, but no

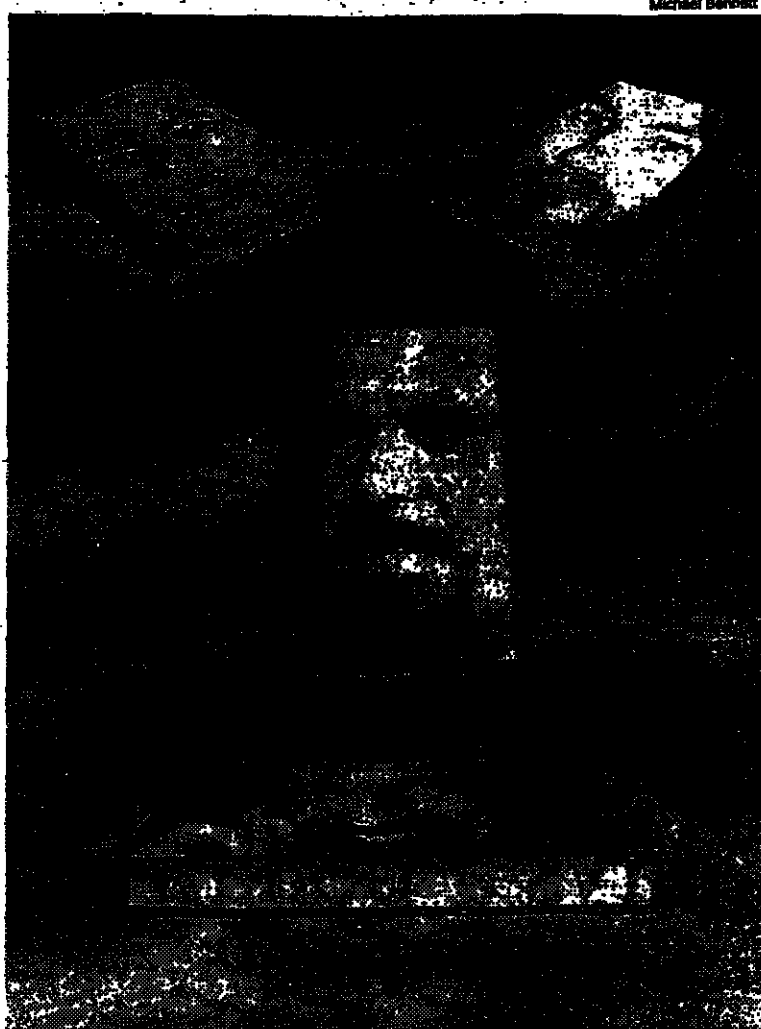
Michael Holroyd looks at a book of essays on the art of biography

THE CRAFT OF LITERARY BIOGRAPHY
Edited by Jeffrey Meyers
Macmillan, £22.50

departments of biography; there are departments of English, but biography is not on the curriculum. "Schools of literary theoreticians agree about little except the exclusion of biography," writes Albert Camus's biographer, Patrick McCarthy. And Derride Bair records her extreme nervousness over the notion of writing a biography of Samuel Beckett because "I had been trained to believe critical exegesis could only proceed through the total absence of biographical consideration".

Literary biographers are divided into those who have enjoyed this excommunication because of the freedom it allows them, and those who have resented it. Among the latter, Henry James's Freudian biographer Leon Edel has become something of a hero. His *Literary Biography*, first published in 1957, argued for the centrality of biography and its value as literature. "I know of no critics in modern times," he protested, "who have chosen to deal with biography as one deals with poetry or the novel." If he has not succeeded in winning literary critics to a belief that the life of a writer is part of the text of his work, he has at least massed a good deal of support from American biographers themselves. Three months ago in Bruce Nadel published a complex and stimulating book, *Biography: Fiction Fact and Form* (Macmillan Press, £22.50), largely inspired by Edel's teaching, that examined the narrative strategies of non-fiction and suggested

On the delivering of Life Sentences



This heirs to Boswell or great life-story tellers? Biographers Elizabeth Longford, Mark Holloway, Philip Knightley and Nigel Hamilton.

that its power of re-invention made good biography a creative work of art. Now Jeffrey Meyers has assembled essays by thirteen biographers (including himself), which he hopes will endorse his opening claim that "biography has become one of

the major literary genres of the twentieth century". Of the 13 contributors seven are American and five British. Biography is a "very Anglo-American profession," writes Nigel Hamilton, because "the average Anglo-Ameri-

can is suspicious of theory and ideas." That contention is not wholly borne out by this book. All the Americans are Professors of English; all but one of the British team are simply freelance writers. The difference is crucial. The British are, in a sense, amateurs. They write simply and autobiographically: they tell the story of what actually happened, try out a few opinions, and allow themselves one or two quizzical asides - and usually leave it at that. It is among the American professors that the passion for respectability burns strongest: the form of asserting that biography is "as much a creation" as are novels, poems, and dramas, and supporting these assertions with some of the theorizing that, in Nigel Hamilton's view, leads to National Socialism and the French Revolution - the excesses of which as its contribution to *belles lettres* biography should undermine.

At its worst this urge for status defeats its own ends. "What we want again in the literary biography is the hard of voices shouting at or past each other," writes Paul Mariani, biographer of William Carlos Williams. In other words we want another Boswell. But such a prospect would make Professor Donald Greene's blood run cold. He is already having enough trouble with Boswell as it is. The definitive *Life* of Johnson, he points out, is by Professor James Clifton - a work which since Professor Clifton's death is being completed by Professor Greene himself.

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But for some reason, people will keep reading Boswell. The professor has calculated that Boswell was in Johnson's company for not more than 425 out of 7,783 days. In Professor Greene's volume, Boswell will occupy the mathematically correct 5 per cent of the narrative - that is 30 pages out of 400. "It will be, I think, a sober and unexciting volume," the professor promises. I think so too. Jeffrey Meyers describes this essay as "fierce". It is about as fierce as a flea-bit, and its strictures on Boswell and Macaulay, in so far as they are not trivial or absurdly overstated, are well accepted by everyone - except apparently the students in the University of Southern California where Donald Greene is the "Bing" Professor of English.

The least respectable of the American contributors is the maverick figure of William M. Murphy.

False bombs and bloodbaths

FICTION

Andrew Sinclair

WILD ABOUT HARRY
By Paul Pickering
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £9.95A CITY SOLITARY
By Nicholas Freeling
Heinemann, £8.50PEARL
By Anne Leaton
Chato & Windy/The Hogarth Press, £9.95A TRAVELLER'S ROOM
By Elspeth Davis
Hamish Hamilton, £8.95

"God appeared to be otherwise engaged." So Major Harry Copeland-Smith found as he prayed to be released from his madhouse in Paraguay. God instead seemed to descend on the Major's clandestine prisoner, the infamous Angel of Death. Dr. Josef Mengele, protected by the British and American secret services in exchange for spilling the beans on his Nazi friends: Paul Pickering's wildly funny first novel, *Wild About Harry*, does to Graham Greene's *Honorary Consul* what Groucho Marx did to Hegel - stand him on his head for a joke.

God is no Catholic sense of guilt in Pickering's parapsychical Paraguay. He is, in fact, a Boer drug-smuggling lord, a homosexual psychopath, a black helicopter, a false bomb in a Jesuit bible, and the force that converts Mengele himself to the ways of righteousness and the identity of Major Harry. This is a hilarious, inventive, black comedy that inverts all values and mocks the religious sp thriller set in exotic parts in the world of "colonial and stagger". Even the Major's job is so secret that his classification is classified, and he ends on the wrong side of the looking-glass as his own prisoner.

Nicholas Freeling is known for his psychological thrillers. Now he tries his tortuous hand in *A City Solitary* on a drama of kidnapping in the Pyrenees, where a cantankerous writer is tormented and robbed by a young gang, refuses to give evidence at their trial, then helps the ringleader escape in his flight to the border with his woman lawyer. The novel is a

criss-cross of love and ambivalent feeling with a bloodbath at the end as if the only way to blast the knot of tangled loyalties were by bullet and blood. The title of the book comes from a penitential psalm in the lamentations of Jeremiah. "How doth the city sit solitary, that was full of people." Freeling has concerned himself with the intricacies of crime and relationships in the wildernesses of cities. Now he transfers himself to considering urban manners set in the solitude of the country and motor cars, carrying the incompatible towards a shared and necessary catastrophe. He is a strange writer, illuminating with flashes of inner light, the sizzling with pyrotechnics of motives until the display is lost in the fireworks. Yet this is a haunting

and obsessive novel, not to be forgotten.

Pearl is a tangy and witty book about the life and times of the daughter of Belle Starr, the outlaw and mistress of Cole Younger and other bandits in America after the Civil War. Anne Leaton was born in Texas and lives there. She has a talent for evoking period, and place, also for the terse phrase. Her dialogue is so spare that one word does the work of ten. Pearl's prolonged dying on the Mexican border is explained in original aphorisms that might be folk sayings. Fear wears you out - Dead women travel slow - it's too hot to die. Anne Leaton's qualities are particularly suited to bringing a Western legend down to earth without being banal. It is praise in Texas to be called as common as an old shoe. Anne Leaton is, with gold buckles on, Elspeth Davis's collection of stories, *A Traveller's Room*, shows a scruple and a judgement in each sentence. Yet a touch of the fey and a sense of the anarchy of things provokes the reader into a fresh consciousness of an everyday society. In "Strange Growth" a wild garden sprouts on a man's head in place of his hair. In "Out of Order" two old friends question the very idea of order because nothing works in their city, yet they end by collecting glass splinters to put in a bag in a ludicrous, infinitesimal contribution to world order. And in "Kiosk Encounter" the worry is all about the lost words unsaid into telephones that do not function. Elspeth Davis describes important themes and whole lives in a few pages.

Thunder, drips and leaks

Philip Howard

THE POWER OF THE PRESS?
By Louis Heren
Orbis, £10

The answer to the question in the title is not a lot, old thing, and not in obvious ways. I never see the point of Rudyard Kipling's slogan about power without responsibility: harlots do not seem to me to have much of either. But the days when the Lord Chancellor could describe the Editor of *The Times* as the most powerful man in England are long gone, and arose because *The Times* had a monopoly of news, and was starting to exercise it independently. Louis Heren, splendid old newshound, argues that it was never the thundering leaders, always the awkward and adroit news items that gave newspapers influence.

The drip of news about Watergate was not the rhetoric of Nixon to resign. The reporting of the horrors of Vietnam, not the opposition editorials, made Johnson decide not to run for re-election. You could argue that it was not Dawson's famous leader in 1916 that persuaded Asquith to cut and run, but the leading of the negotiations that indicated Lloyd-George could not be trusted. But even as hard a newsmen as Louis might have to admit that it was Delane's reports from the Crimea that brought down the Government.

This is a sensible and lively survey of the history and present state of the press by a grand old pro. Quarter of a century on it covers partly the same territory as Francis Williams's *Dangerous Estate*, but also takes in the American press from Bennett to Kate Graham.

It is stronger on anecdote and brisk judgement than historical analysis. It really is an oversimplification to state that Dawson censored dispatches from his foreign correspondents that might upset the apparent of appeasement. Dawson was a leader-writing journo, and when he wrote about keeping matter that might offend the Nazis out of *The Times* he was speaking of leaders, not news. This is a stirring blast of the trumpet for newsmen as the watchdogs of democracy, for continually asking, "Why are these lying bastards lying to me?", from one of our keenest-scented and bell-mouthed hounds.

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Fantasy, blunder and luck

Edward Mortimer

CAVOUR
By Denis Mack Smith
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £12.95

monarchy rather than a radical republic or a loose federation.

Writing Cavour's life, Denis Mack Smith is on familiar ground. Justly famous for his smooth, readable style (and the object of some jealousy on that account among fellow-historians, particularly in Italy itself where academics tend to be pompous and long-winded), on this occasion he makes things even easier for the general reader by dispensing altogether with footnotes - grandly referring the specialist colleagues in search of documentation and references to three earlier works: *The Making of Italy* (1968), *Victor Emmanuel Cavour and the Risorgimento* (1971), and *Cavour and Garibaldi* (1984).

The last named, but first written, work, which established Mack Smith in the position he has held for 30 years as the leading British historian of Italy - many would say the foremost living historian of modern Italy of whatever nationality - is about to be re-published in paperback by Cambridge Uni-

versity Press (price £9.95) with a new introduction by the author. That book, according to A.J.P. Taylor, "turned things upside down" by showing that Garibaldi was the realist.

Cavour the inspired but dogmatic muddler. Actually that is an oversimplification, for Mack Smith did not deny that it was Cavour's vision that eventually triumphed - presumably the ultimate test of "practicality". What he did was (a) to argue that this triumph was not inevitable (which makes Cavour's achievement all the greater) and (b) to highlight the fact that most of the time Cavour regarded Garibaldi as an enemy rather than an ally.

What is true, and is further emphasized in the new book, is that the detailed study of Cavour's career reveals an amazing series of fantasies and blunders, and especially of crude attempts at deception which simply alienated potential allies, as well as acts of arrogance and ingratitude which deeply wounded even close friends. The reader is driven to wonder at times whether all Cavour's achievements were not the effect of good luck more than good management; and it comes as a bit of a surprise to find at the end that his early death was regarded by almost everyone as a great tragedy.

Marmalade magic

Shona Crawford
Poole

THE BOOK OF
MARMALADE
By C. Anne Wilson
Constable, £6.95

C. Anne Wilson's work is a scholarly and readable exception to the rule in food titles that the definite article seldom means what it says. *The Book of Marmalade*, subtitled "its antecedents, its history and its role in the world today together with recipes for marmalades and marmalade cookery" fulfills that claim as satisfyingly as anyone could have hoped. The author of *Food and Drink in Britain* published in 1973, had a lot to live up to.

Anne Wilson settles the argument about Janet Keiller's role in the history of marmalade. Mrs Keiller did not, as is often claimed, invent orange marmalade or even orange marmalade with chips of peel in it. But by making it commercially she did do much for its popularity. Scotland's chief claim to marmalade fame was to shift it from a dessert role at dinner to its now unshakeable place on the breakfast table.

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CRIMEWATCH

ORGANIZED CRIMES
Nicholas Von Hoffman
'Hoffman's style has the sure, sharp tap of the two-tone shoe' Nicholas Shakespeare, *The Times*
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THE ROADS OF EARTH
Allen Drury
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MICHAEL JOSEPH

THE TIMES DIARY

Hidden asset

Millionaire banker Sir Julian Hodge, who recently handed over chairmanship of the Commercial Bank of Wales to his old friend Viscount Tonypan, has gone into tax exile. He told me from his new home in Jersey yesterday that he cannot return to England for a year without losing money. As a result, he will miss the wedding this summer of his son Robert, a director of the Commercial Bank, which Sir Julian founded in 1971. "I don't like weddings anyway," said 50-year-old Sir Julian. Meanwhile Viscount Tonypan - the former Speaker, George Thomas - flies to Jersey tomorrow for a weekend with his crony of some 30 years. They will discuss, among other things, their third visit to Saudi Arabia as guests of Mr Petroleum, Sheikh Yamani. Not too much of a strain: Sheikh Yamani always sends his private jet to collect them.

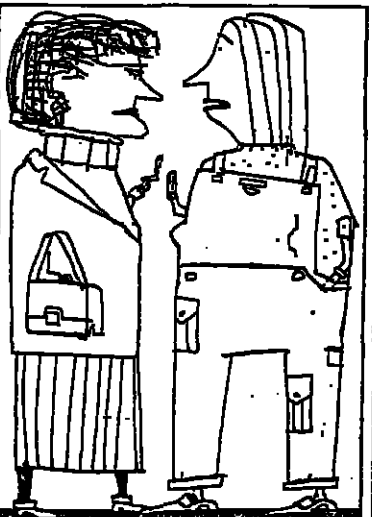
Bare faithed

Not wishing to offend the Archbishop of Canterbury during his present tour, Australian officials wired Terry Waite, his assistant, to ask how much of their shapely Sheila should be exposed to archiepiscopal view. They pointed out that one city on his schedule had a north and south beach: which would Dr Runcie prefer - "bearing in mind that the north has topless sunbathing." Waite cabled back: "Don't worry, the Archbishop always sunbathes topless."

Planking on it

The original wise-cracking rabbi, Lionel Blue of *Thought for the Day*, reveals in his forthcoming BBC book *Bright Blue* that he once fell in a grave during a burial, to be hauled out finally by a muscular gravedigger. As he slipped on the ice and headed into the grave, Rabbi Blue confesses he made a silent prayer, "that the mourners had not been stinging over the coffin, and had bought one with a lid made of solid oak, not one made of plywood."

BARRY FANTONI



'Breakfast was just like old times - me with my mugs, Neville reading his newspaper'

Out of range

A car dealer who got hold of the number plate SDP I thought David Owen would be a sure buyer. Alas, the Volvo-owning Owen could not find the £5,000 and has passed the offer to SDP headquarters, obviously with the likes of David Sainsbury in mind. For myself, I shall decline PHS I should it come on the market. It's on a Honda Civic.

Scaled down

I hope the Society for the Protection of Goldfish was at last night's opening of *A Party for Bonzo* at the Soho Poly. Central to the plot is a goldfish which acts as a catalyst for a marriage breaking up. In an out-of-town run in Barnet, the fish in question was thrown out of the window. Although a bucket of water was provided for it to land in, the scene angered animal rights activists. Now the play has been rewritten to allow the fish to remain in its bowl throughout.

Limited run

Yes, yes, the London Marathon is happening soon - on April 21 with 22,000 runners, one of whom is the inevitable 71-year-old grandmother. But what about the rejects, 55,000 in the United Kingdom? They include Roger Mills, the former Olympic race walker, who has walked the marathon distance in 3hr 23min, faster than many will run it on the big day. He has comforted himself by marketing a "London Marathon Reject" T-shirt and the garments have been going like hot cakes. Mills is out but not down.

Stain power

A radical American publishing outfit is reprinting what it claims is a CIA-backed *Freedom Fighters Manual* distributed to Nicaraguan peasants. Among the subversive tactics recommended are "spreading rumours", "making false hotel reservations", "dropping type-writers" - and "spilling liquids". That should teach them.

Clock off

Another job gone forever. After 296 years, it has become impossible to find stand-ins prepared to spend 20 minutes a day winding the Curfew Tower clock at Windsor Castle for 50p a time while the regular winder is away. The clock has just been sent to Derby to be electrified at a cost of about £5,250 - or some 300 years wages.

PHS

Europe: initiative, not inertia

by David Steel

The postwar story of Britain in Europe is a sorry chronicle of insularity and arrogance, implausibly disguised as hard-headed national self-interest. From the Schuman plan in 1950 onwards, British governments have been proficient in either missing the bus altogether or delaying it for the other passengers. Now it is about to happen again; but this time the other passengers will not wait for us.

The paradox is that, far from advancing our own best interests, we have generally succeeded in damaging them. Because we originally stayed out of the Community became over-centred on agriculture, which has subsequently not suited Britain with its relatively small farm population and growing industrial problems. Yet even now as the Community enlarges, struggles for a new political dynamism and even a new draft treaty enshrining its aims and organization, Mrs Thatcher's government - far from being in the thick of the negotiations, pushing for a positive and constructive role for Britain - is again taking too limited an approach.

A British government genuinely concerned with the best interests of our people, rather than succumbing to the lures of chauvinistic bluster, would be asking itself some questions. Would membership of the European monetary system not help to protect British exporters by moderating the volatility of sterling in an uncertain currency world?

Shall we not need a concerted European energy policy, particularly when our own brief oil bonanza is over? Can any European country alone slay the dragon of unemployment or does it need concerted action from us all?

The Foreign Office is selective in its support for change. It does, for instance, understand that it is important to break down barriers to trade within the Community and to harmonize internal services such as insurance. This was supported by the Dudge Committee, set up by the heads of government. Yet that committee, whose report to the European Council will form the agenda for the discussion on advance towards union, also called for procedural reforms without which this advance will be blocked. These Britain opposes on pragmatic grounds in unlikely partnership with Greece and Denmark. Yet unless decision-making in the Community can be made speedier, more democratic and more accountable, the odds are against a new dynamism emerging in Europe.

Attempts are made by the Government to distinguish "practical" bread-and-butter issues from the more "visionary" ideas of political union. The danger is that once again, in an excess of pragmatism, Britain will wish the ends of greater economic cooperation without willing the consti-

tutional means of effective decision-making.

Tinkering around will not be enough. Talking to Hans-Dietrich Genscher and other European leaders, I have detected an iron determination that the Community shall lift itself out of the mire of inertia.

What a refreshing change it would make if in the weeks between now and the European Council meeting in Milan in June, Britain for once took the lead with her European partners. We should make it plain that we stand for democracy as the only hope of an effective Europe. That means supporting a common voting system for the European Parliament based on proportional representation so that every vote cast throughout the Community is given an equal weight. It then means ensuring that the council and commission are subject to greater democratic control from the elected parliament when they act on behalf of the Community.

In particular we should abandon our resistance to qualified majority voting. It is depressing to hear British ministers invoking the so-called Luxembourg Compromise imposed by De Gaulle in 1965. Total unanimity is a recipe for inaction, for all being forced to move at the pace of the slowest. Europe must move forward and Britain has a greater role to play than to hang around waving her veto. Let's get on with it.

The author is leader of the Liberal Party.

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Bernard Levin: the way we live now

Where love pays a penalty in torture



Jaroslav Javorsky: foot broken during repeated beatings

Jiri Javorsky was for many years one of Czechoslovakia's leading tennis players; he was captain of the Czech Davis cup team. He was regarded with suspicion by the Czech authorities, not because he took part in any dissident activities but because he would not, in his tennis-playing travels abroad, act as a spy, and also because he refused to join the Communist Party. He and his wife Vera have two sons, Jaroslav and George, pressure was put upon the father through the sons, who found obstacles in the way of their educational and employment progress.

When Mr Javorsky's days of competitive tennis ended, he worked as a coach, and in 1976 he was offered a trainer's job in West Germany. He was allowed to go, with his wife, but - as is customary in countries of the Soviet empire - they were forced to leave their sons behind as hostages; they were not allowed to visit their parents together. In 1977, George, the younger, was allowed to go on a visit to Heilbronn, where his father was working, when the Czech authorities made a mistake; the older son, Jaroslav, asked for permission to go abroad, and the official to whom he applied for an exit visa, failing to spot the fact that his parents and brother were all at the time outside the country, granted it. (What happened to the crying official is not known, but it is safe to assume that it was nothing pleasant.)

The moment all four members of the family were safely together in Germany, they asked for political asylum there, which was granted. But that left the fiancée of Jaroslav, together with her daughter from a previous marriage, still in Prague, and when she asked for an exit visa for herself and the child, it was refused.

Jaroslav therefore decided, in 1977, to return to Czechoslovakia and rescue her. He travelled on a German passport, and incognito; he managed while in Prague to get papers for her which entitled her to travel, with her child, within the Soviet empire. The three of them then went to Bulgaria, and the last stretch of the escape was to be a train journey into Turkey. Before they got there, they were taken off the train; the fiancée and child were sent back to Czechoslovakia under escort, and Jaroslav was arrested and held in Bulgaria.

He was interrogated for a fortnight, with repeated beatings; finally, he admitted his identity. He was sent back to Czechoslovakia, where his fiancée was then arrested. She was held for four months, being continuously interrogated; Jaroslav insisted that he, and he alone, was responsible for the attempted escape and would accept all the guilt for it, and she was then given a two-year suspended sentence. Jaroslav himself was kept in prison for months before being "tried" and the quotation-marks are even more appropriate than is usual in such cases, for he was refused permission to have a defence lawyer of his choice and assigned one who was simultaneously a member of the tribunal which was trying him, a most convenient and economical arrangement for the authorities.

Jaroslav Javorsky was sentenced to 13 years imprisonment, on charges which included illegal departure from Czechoslovakia, assisting another person to escape and "betrayal of the Republic". He was sentenced in a category which normally applies to habitual offenders and those convicted of violent crimes. He was, and is, held in Valdice prison, where he has been repeatedly beaten (his foot was

broken in one of these attacks but he received no treatment for it and the consequent deformity will now be permanent); two hunger strikes have had no effect except more beatings.

Jaroslav Javorsky was adopted as a prisoner of conscience by Amnesty in 1978. His case was raised at the Madrid Conference which followed Helsinki; the West German foreign minister has repeatedly raised it with the Czech authorities and Bonn, in a very rare if not unique act, has made him a German citizen.

The reason for the peculiar viciousness of his treatment must be obvious to anyone who knows anything about the way these things go in the Soviet empire. Javorsky senior was a Czech sports champion; such people, together with prominent artistic personalities and similar internationally known figures, are treated far better than the average citizen (provided, of course, that they comply with all the demands of their rulers). If one of their defects, it is a double blow to the authorities: first because it must mean that for all their favoured material treatment, they still prefer freedom, and second because their flight, because of their fame, is known all over the world.

In Mr Javorsky's case, there was an added reason for the brutality visited upon his son. There had been a similar scandal when Jaroslav Drobný, another leading Czech tennis player, left his native country to settle in the West (he won the Wimbledon championship); following that episode, other Czech tennis players were banned from playing abroad, and the ban lasted for several years. Mr Javorsky had long since ceased to play in championship tennis, but his name was presumably known, from former triumphs, to all those who follow tennis in Czechoslovakia and many

who do so abroad (the twice reached the semi-finals at Wimbledon).

Jaroslav Javorsky is ill; he has skin and eye infections and kidney disease. It seems unlikely that he will survive to the end of his sentence, which expires in 1991. When he went on hunger strike for the second time, the news got out. What followed is described in a letter from his parents:

"The news about our son is terrible. A few days before he ended his hunger strike, they pulled him out of hospital and he was beaten up terribly. Afterwards, he was thrown for 24 hours into an unheated hole - that was at the beginning of March. He got no water and they took away all the vitamins he had received in hospital, but that was still not enough. They asked for a statement against our son from his neighbour [in prison], who was also on hunger strike. He was an elderly man and they burnt his eyelids and started to burn off his eyebrows. Our son had to watch, and this was perhaps worse for him than if he had been going through it himself. One cannot call them animals, for this would be to insult animals. How could anyone do such a thing? They obviously wanted to know how it was possible that the news of our son's hunger strike had been made public and had even penetrated abroad. That was the reason for their rage."

The Javorsky parents conclude their letter with a plea, from their son, that I could hardly disregard; but it is worth remembering by us who live in freedom how much courage it took him to make it. "In spite of everything," they write, "it is our son's wish that his treatment should be made known as much as possible."

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Bryan Gould

A gold leaf from the Tory book

Privatization is the nearest thing to a success this government can claim: it is ideologically satisfying to its backbenchers, it brings in useful amounts of cash which help the Chancellor to balance the books, and, by invading Labour territory, it places the Opposition firmly on the defensive.

Despite some difficulties in fixing the prices at which privatized shares should be sold, the Government has emerged pretty well unscathed from Labour counter-attacks. A blanket defence of the status quo has reinforced Labour's image as the defender of vested (and largely unpopular) interests. The attempt to deter private buyers through the threat of renationalization has also been counter-productive: to the extent that it means buying the shares back, the sheer cost of doing so reduces the credibility of both threat and the party, and a policy of renationalization without compensation would do such damage to Labour electorally that it has been quietly dropped.

Little wonder, therefore, that neither the City nor the Government loses sleep over Labour's protests. A great deal has been done to make the privatized enterprises attractive to investors - by writing off debts, rejigging expensive pension arrangements and preserving monopoly and dominant market positions; and the Government has also ensured that many of the shares have gone on favourable terms to employees and customers who would not look kindly on any threat to nationalize their newly acquired holdings.

What then is Labour to do, either to stem the privatization tide in the short term or (which is very much the same thing) to offer a credible means of reversing it in the long? The answer may lie, partly at least, in studying very carefully the lessons to be learnt from the way the Tories have handled the issue.

First, they have shown how the value of assets can be juggled to suit political purposes. Just as enterprises have been made more attractive to private buyers through the ruthless use of write-offs to reduce liabilities, so an equally ruthless Labour government should not hesitate to use similar devices to increase the liabilities and reduce the market value of such enterprises as a prelude to buying them back.

More importantly, the Tories have quite cynically (and in clear defiance of their own propaganda about competition and liberalization) made sure that the market value of privatized enterprises has been enhanced by protecting their monopoly positions. Labour can equally well depress their market value by doing, with the most justifiable of motives, what the Tories should have done - by introducing a proper regulation of how these enterprises conduct themselves in the market (particularly in matters of price), and, for so long as it is the market which is supposed to regulate their activities, by subjecting them to a proper element of competition.

A company which was compelled by government regulation to pay much greater attention to the public interest might find it less possible to make easy profits from a captive market; and if a Labour government were to introduce a policy of real competition, which concentrated less on the structural questions arising from mergers and more on actual anti-competitive practices (as in America), then again the guaranteed profitability of many of these companies could be significantly reduced.

Most interesting, however, is the potential weapon offered to a future Labour government through the Tory use of the so-called special or "golden" share. The Government has hit upon this device to deflect criticism that it is handing over what are sometimes vital national interests to the vagaries of the market. Not so, it claims: through the special share, which may have a little commercial value but which carries substantial voting rights, the public interest can be defended. The Government retains a "golden" share in many privatized concerns, including Cable and Wireless, British Telecom, British Airways, Jaguar, Enterprise Oil, British Petroleum and British Aerospace.

The "golden" share, sanctified by Tory practice and therefore, one assumes, immune from attack in principle, offers Labour a means of exercising real control over these companies without having to pay anything to have them back, whereas a Tory government might be expected to pay only lip service to the concept of using the special share to exercise public control, a Labour government could make it a reality.

The beauty of the device is that its use need not stop there. What is to stop a Labour government from acquiring shareholdings in other companies and, following Tory precedent, declaring them to be "golden" shares?

The device would not achieve everything Labour hopes for from public ownership. There would still be room for - indeed a need for - other forms of social or public ownership, ranging from the state corporation which has so far been the norm to the municipal and co-operative enterprises which look to be the most promising form in the future.

The "golden share" would, however, provide Labour with an instrument of intervention and public control which is effective and, because it is inexpensive and in no sense confiscatory, credible. It would enable Labour not only to inhibit further privatization and to reverse that which has already occurred, but also to carry the battle into enemy territory.

The agenda for public control would no longer be determined by Labour's opponents. Labour would be able to think about the criteria for public control and ownership, secure in the knowledge that it had a flexible and effective instrument for bringing it about.

The author is Labour MP for Dagenham

moreover... Miles Kingston

It's a must - for the moment

I don't think anyone ever observed the life-and-death cycle of the gadget. Just because a thing is inanimate it doesn't mean it hasn't got its own natural lifespan, and although it would take a Desmond Morris to do full justice to the rise and fall of the Rubik cube, solar panel, digital watch or CB radio, I think it's worth sketching the main stages of growth and decay. Whether it is something worldwide such as the personal stereo or merely a passing irritant such as the musical car horn, they all seem to go through the same rough life-cycle, give or take a few intermediate episodes.

The first sign of birth is the breathless return of a friend from America. Before this you have never even heard of, let's say, the electronic corkscrew. "They're all got them!" he enthuses. "Not only does it extract the cork without spilling, it tells you if the wine is ready for drinking or not. I don't know how we've done without them. I would have got one, but they're a bit expensive at the moment."

Gadgets are always a bit expensive to begin with, but the prices always come down eventually. Meanwhile the birth announcement is made officially by one of the newspaper colour magazines. *The Way the World Will Be Drinking Tomorrow* is the headline on their over-the-top feature written by their over-the-top science correspondent, their in-house James Burke. This is shortly followed by a piece in the business pages: "Britain must not be left behind in the electronic drinks market," warns their stern-warning correspondent, knowing in his heart of hearts that Taiwan and Korea are already well ahead.

Then you meet your first friend who has got one. Quite often he throws a party to show it off, if it's a home gadget such as a liquidiser or compact disc. If it's portable - a beep or pocket calculator, for example - he drops in unexpectedly to show it to you. If it's attached to the car - like a cellphone or CB radio - you find yourself being offered lifts by people who have never offered you lifts before.

Then your children tell you that your friends' children have got one.

After that, its success seems unstoppable. The first magazine entirely devoted to the gadget appears. Someone in your office becomes the recognized local expert

on it. Terry Wogan makes a joke out of not having one. An Irish joke appears about an Irishman who puts it to the wrong use. A shop opens in the Tottenham Court Road selling nothing else, and offering to repair them as well. And *Urch* magazine compares all available makes.

This, it turns out, is the turning point, because as sure as little Rubik cubes gather dust, little storm clouds now appear. The first reports appear in papers of cowboy firms who are making cheap replicas and going out of business before you can complain. Radio 4's *Checkpoint* makes disparaging noises. They turn out to have nuisance value as well - bleeps that go off in concerts, skate boarders who knock over old ladies, CB radios used by obscene callers, and electronic corkscrews that apparently turn the wine sour while testing it.

You see them for sale, second-hand. You see them at jumble sales, unsold.

The first report appears on the business pages of a British firm in serious trouble after hastily over-expansion. The colour magazines change their tune: *The Solar Panel Racket*, *Why CB Radio Never Took Off* and *The Return of the Natural Corkscrew*. Terry Wogan makes fun of someone on his programme who still has one. After that, the mopping-up process quickens; the *Victoria and Albert Museum* buys a few for the sake of history, someone has a serious accident using one (*Sun* headline: *Tragic Mother of Corkscrew Kevin Uprobs Bath*) and finally, the ultimate insult, its street value in Moscow plunges.

Then you meet your friend again, the one who goes to America and reports on the arrival of new gadgets. You remind him of his championship of the electronic corkscrew. He looks at you as if he doesn't know what you're talking about. Nor does he, because he is not listening; he has just come back from America with thrilling news.

"They've got all electronic book-marks over there!" he says. "Not only do they mark the page, they actually memorize everything you've read so far, so that if you've lost the hang of the plot, it reminds you of it. I don't know how we've done without them. As soon as the price comes down..."

A new life-cycle is beginning.

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Which face for the National Front?



Old style: how most people see the national front



New style: Ian Anderson leads a demonstration

1983 it fielded only 60 candidates, who gained 1 per cent of the votes. In the mid-1970s, it is estimated, it had 25,000 members. According to *Searchlight* magazine, the anti-fascist monthly, the total has dropped to 1,000. It has serious financial problems.

While its support was partly drawn from disillusioned Labour voters most of its support came from working-class Tories who thought the Conservative Party had gone soft on race. Their return to the fold followed Mrs Thatcher's assumption of the leadership.

Dr Christopher Huskins, a sociology lecturer at the London School of Economics, puts their change of heart down to race. "They thought she would do something about immigration," he said. "She outflanked the National Front."

Correction

Francoist Spain, referred to in Jack Kuro's article yesterday, did not receive Marshall Aid. It became a political member of Nato after General Franco's death.

As the Front's support began to crumble the bickering started. In December 1983 Martin Webster was removed from all his positions in the party, including national activities organizer and press officer. The following November he was voted off the directorate, the 18-member national ruling council. Webster is now suing through an industrial tribunal and in the High Court, claiming his dismissal was unfair. If he succeeds, he could bankrupt the party.

Meanwhile the new "intellectual" leaders consolidated their position when Andrew Brown resigned as chairman for what he described as personal reasons at the end of last year and was replaced by Anderson.

The new policy of positivism includes the advocacy of a third way between the twin evils of international capitalism and communism, both of which the Front blames on "cosmopolitanism", a codeword for Jewish influence. The line is that Britain should develop small, self-sufficient capitalists - an idea that draws on the distributist movement of the 1930s.

Richard Dowden



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QUESTION OF BALLOTS

It is an indictment of the democratic spirit and even of the competence of a trade union's leaders when they seek to take industrial action without consulting their members, and find, when constrained to do so by court action, that the members show as dubious a readiness for the conflict as the members of the Civil and Public Services Association did yesterday. With the CPSA narrowly rejecting a strike, the Inland Revenue Staffs Federation in a second ballot after losing the first, and only the Society of Civil and Public Servants at all eager for the fray, the Civil Service unions go into the next stage of the bargaining process with an unmistakable shuffle of dragging feet.

Union leaders should know the mood of their members better than this. Consultation through the ballot box should be a way of life, not something needing to be imposed from outside. And the conduct of the ballot needs to be impeccable. In spite of last year's legislation on trade union voting, the internal accountability of the unions is still a matter of grave concern. Recently the AUEW decided to hold a re-run of a disputed election for the general secretaryship of its foundry section, and in the Transport and General Workers Union misgivings about the conduct of last year's election for general secretary are gathering strength.

The contrast between the reactions of the two unions is striking. Faced with evidence of

voting irregularities and improper canvassing (allegedly by factions of the right) the AUEW scrapped the election. Faced with strong suspicions of far more significant irregularities in the TGWU, the reaction of Mr Moss Evans, the retiring general secretary, has been to bluster.

The union declares that the allegations now surfacing are part of a campaign to discredit the forthcoming ballots in the movement over the political levy. Mr Evans has made a complaint to the Press Council against the papers where some of the evidence has appeared, and threatened to seek an inquiry by the Attorney General. All care of workplace balloting, in this union as in most others, is wide open at least to muddle, and to manipulation if anybody wishes to manipulate it. Safeguards are cursory, and the failure to publish local voting figures makes it impossible to rebut charges of irregularity. It is not Mr Evans's critics, but the procedures themselves, which threaten to mar the credibility of the coming ballots on the political levy. Last year's legislation conceded (on the urging of the unions themselves) that workplace ballots would be acceptable as well as postal ballots under independent supervision. But unless workplace ballots can be made an adequate means of securing effective accountability, and demonstrating that they are so, last year's concession will need to be withdrawn, and postal ballots made compulsory.

Of course it demonstrates nothing of the kind. It could demonstrate nothing more than a low level of confidence among members that complaints will be fairly and energetically investigated. The details of the base certainly demonstrate how very easy it is to abuse a system where the sanctity of the ballot boxes is at the mercy of literally tens of thousands of interested union officials. Nothing has been done to explain the gross anomaly of the high poll in Northern Ireland, twice as high as it was at the last

election. Allegations that members were registered as having voted when they had not done so, that ballots were re-run without proper supervision and that whole branches were effectively disenfranchised have been made in several parts of England too.

Perhaps there is nothing in any of these allegations. Perhaps the outcome of the election would have been the same even if all alleged discrepancies are discounted. (Though this is by no means certain, as the vote was the closest in the union's history.) What is clear is that the procedure of workplace balloting, in this union as in most others, is wide open at least to muddle, and to manipulation if anybody wishes to manipulate it. Safeguards are cursory, and the failure to publish local voting figures makes it impossible to rebut charges of irregularity. It is not Mr Evans's critics, but the procedures themselves, which threaten to mar the credibility of the coming ballots on the political levy. Last year's legislation conceded (on the urging of the unions themselves) that workplace ballots would be acceptable as well as postal ballots under independent supervision. But unless workplace ballots can be made an adequate means of securing effective accountability, and demonstrating that they are so, last year's concession will need to be withdrawn, and postal ballots made compulsory.

DIALOGUE WITH DUBLIN

The conversations between the British and Irish governments, which have recently been the subject of airy speculation, flow from the meeting between Mrs Thatcher and Dr FitzGerald at Chequers last November. The prime ministers agreed that there should be "close and continuing dialogue" between the two governments on several subjects, one of which was co-operation in matters of security and another the proposition that "the identities of both the majority and the minority communities in Northern Ireland should be recognized and respected, and reflected in the structures and processes of Northern Ireland in ways acceptable to both communities".

The object the British government has in view is to associate the government of the Republic with the conduct of affairs in Northern Ireland. That amounts to explicit acknowledgement of that government's interest in those affairs. The point is first to improve co-ordination in the security field and, second, to provide some validation of Ulster's institutions and public policy in the eyes of Northern nationalists. Then they might look with more favour and confidence on the law enforcement agencies in particular, and their representatives might enter more fully into the politics and devolved administration of the province.

Those are prizes worth having. But the kind of association the British government is offering the Irish government in pursuit of them is strictly limited. One condition is that nothing shall be done to qualify British sovereignty in Northern Ireland. Both governments acknowledge that sovereignty cannot and should not be transferred or diluted without the free consent of the majority of the Ulster people. That consent is obviously not available.

The other limitation being set is that there shall be no executive role for the Irish government within Northern Ireland. Apart from the questionable implications an executive function would have for sovereignty, its practical application in so bitterly divided a society would pose such formidable problems

for both governments as to render it wholly unsuitable. Since those forms of association are excluded, the Irish government is left with the possibility only of a consultative and perhaps an emblematic role. Dr FitzGerald, who cannot be under any illusion that more is on offer, deserves encouragement in testing the adequacy of that. He is showing courage in doing so, for it involves political risk for him at home and may put in question his republican credentials in the North.

The risk is in accepting a seeming responsibility for the state of affairs in Northern Ireland without corresponding power to shape it. Instead of the "novel political structures" of which he spoke last month in London, he might come away with only novel political locations - a branch of statecraft in which the Irish department of foreign affairs is specially adept. If they were of the kind that mean one thing to one party and another to the other, the whole thing might well end in the disaster predicted by Mr Haughey. Furthermore, so diminished an outcome of the analysis and recommendations of last year's New Ireland Forum report could fail to turn on the Northern nationalists in the way envisaged.

The situation is one that has cropped up before in the record of Britain's Irish initiatives. The prior restrictions the British government has placed on its explorations, out of regard for practicality and realism, fall like a barrier in front of the objective. The remaining ground on which the two governments might stand together could turn out to be too constricted to permit them to do anything so ambitious as to transform the situation in Northern Ireland for the better by those means.

Assorted voices call for the conversations to be broken off. Ulster unionists claim to see nothing in them but a new aspect of an old conspiracy to detach Northern Ireland from the United Kingdom. They have no evidence for that; nor do they need evidence, such is the power of disbelief. Others point to the unsettling effect that the ped-

dling of initiatives has in Northern Ireland and the openings for manoeuvre it provides for the IRA/Sinn Féin.

They point also to Mr Haughey's denials having punctured the balloon. At his party conference last month he re-emphasized his post-forum line that nothing short of a unitary republic for the whole island will do, that Dr FitzGerald is merely tinkering with a failed political entity, viz. Northern Ireland as at present constituted, and that a vague consultative role for the Irish government would be worse than useless. And Mr Haughey, whose party is comfortably ahead of Dr FitzGerald's coalition in public opinion polls, looks like being in power in less than three years' time.

These objections are not sufficient to abort what has become known as the Anglo-Irish process. Northern Ireland is "initiative-hardened" by now. It is possible to exaggerate the degree of unsettlement caused by the brain-children of successive secretaries of state; and since the condition out of which the place is supposedly shaken is one of political paralysis, disturbance is not to be entirely deplored anyway. Mr Haughey speaks in opposition. If Dr FitzGerald finds and is prepared to try out a role as Irish consultant to the British government he would have two years in which to establish it, and if during that time the nationalists in the North were to find the innovation helpful, an incoming Fianna Fáil government would have little reason to subvert it.

The dialogue should be allowed to go forward until the time is due for the parties to make a public report, which will be some time between the local elections in May and the start of the marching season in July. There is some value in the activity itself even if it produces little of practical use. And if it is to fail, the British government, to avoid embarrassment in Washington and Strasbourg, should make sure that the apparent cause of failure does not arise from some abrupt or unreasonable insistence on its part.

FAIR WINDS IN SRI LANKA

Mrs Thatcher's main ceremonial duty in Sri Lanka is to inaugurate the Victoria dam on the Mahaweli river, built by British engineers and with the assistance of a grant of £113 million. It is a major hydro-electric installation and part of an irrigation scheme that will extend biannual cropping further through the central provinces of Sri Lanka.

Her hosts there, as elsewhere in these journeys, will be interested to hear how she has seen off the trade unions at home. They will be even more interested to hear how she is seeing off the Provisional IRA, for the Sri Lanka government has a problem of a similar nature: insurrectionary violence by Tamil separatists rooted in a territorial contest of great age, and complexity.

Although the killing by both sides in the north of the island continues at too sharp a pace, there is a new confidence that the means of pacification may be

found, and the island as a whole benefit once more to the full from its deserved reputation as a place of ease and beauty. The confidence derives partly from the government's having got a better grip on its security operations. The earlier panicky excesses of a soldiery untrained in this kind of service are now officially admitted and better guarded against. The confidence flows also from the Indian dimension of the problem.

There is recent evidence that Mr Rajiv Gandhi is throwing his weight against action, official or unofficial, in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu to succour the terrorist organizations in Sri Lanka. There are also pointers that ministerial conversations between Colombo and New Delhi may have brought the two governments towards a common view of the steps that are necessary to wind down the violence and accommodate the

aspirations of Sri Lankan Tamils by measures of provincial autonomy.

Mrs Thatcher, as Prime Minister of a country with happily warm relations with Sri Lanka, will have a sympathetic ear for any such developments; but no role as referee, broker or messenger between the parties of this essentially regional dispute. She will probably be asked to restrain the Tamils in Britain, as she will probably be asked at her next stop to restrain the Sikhs. There is not a lot to be done in either case unless they abuse their position by overt acts of hostility towards the powers concerned.

The Sri Lankan authorities are reported to suspect that Britain is a source of arms for Tamil terrorists. If they have real evidence of that they can expect Mrs Thatcher to act no less firmly than she looks to Washington to act to prevent arms reaching the IRA from that jurisdiction.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Putting technology in its place

From Mr Lewis Stretch

Sir, Professor MacDowell (April 2) rightly criticises Lord Young's reasons for encouraging technological education, but forgets that his own authorities offer better justification. For Plato insisted that anyone aspiring to political power should have his mind sharpened by a sound grounding in mathematics, the strictest and most advanced scientific art of his day.

The modern world is utterly dependent on advanced, and advancing, technology to sustain present populations at a tolerable standard of living; so electorates and governments that cannot understand the scientific system and the language in which most of its information and decisions must be encoded and analysed cannot make rational choices of policies.

If, therefore, any democracy is to enable all to take some effective part in politics its educational system must ensure that all - not merely those who hope to practise in the professions and trades involved - have an adequate understanding of technology and comprehension of its basic language.

We are a long way from achieving this state, indeed well behind many competitors; an increase in technological education is essential to correct this crippling defect.

Yours faithfully,
LEWIS STRETCH,
1 Manor Close,
Ashby-de-la-Zouch,
Leicestershire,
April 3.

From Mr Peter Thurnham, MP for Bolton, North-East (Conservative)

Sir, Had Professor MacDowell (April 2) read your excellent editorial (April 2) on the Jarrat report before putting pen to paper perhaps he would not have exposed so much that is wrong with university thinking today.

It would not be a failure of technology if the number of technology jobs in Britain is small at the end of the century - it would be a failure to catch the spirit of the revolution that is happening in the rest of the world.

Universities want more funds; but can their paymaster be blamed for demanding that universities play their part, achieving the revolution which is needed? The NEDC report, "Competence and Competition", shows the gap which is opening up between the UK and our principal competitors: Japan is producing some 70,000 broad-based engineering graduates each year, compared with 15,000 in this country.

The price of failure to change will be fewer universities and fewer students, whether of French or computer Basics. But Professor MacDowell could be right - if we grasp the challenge of technology then fewer people will be denied the chance of higher education, be it classics or computers.

Yours faithfully,
PETER THURNHAM,
House of Commons,
April 3.

'Terror' in Sri Lanka

From the President of the Sri Lanka Association of Britain

Sir, Far from the picture of exploitation and oppression drawn by Professor Matill and Dummett (April 3) Sri Lanka Tamils in fact enjoy rights and privileges not enjoyed by minorities in most Western countries including the UK. Do the Asians and blacks, for instance, who comprise 5 per cent of the population in Britain, have any of the following:

1. Their languages recognised as state languages?
2. Their religious recognised?
3. Over 35 per cent of top jobs in this country?
4. Is their rate of unemployment less than half that of the majority population here?
5. Do they hold top jobs like chief justice, attorney general, ambassador?
6. Do they own most of the large businesses in the country?

The Sri Lanka Tamils, though only a 12.6 per cent minority, enjoy all these rights and excessive privileges - hardly characteristics of an oppressed community. Indeed Sri Lanka is the only country other than South Africa where the majority population is so thoroughly exploited by minorities - a vicious legacy of the British colonial policy of divide and rule.

As for "Tamil areas" would these professors accept that any part of Britain belongs specifically to any race, whether English, Scottish, Welsh or Indian? Equally there are no areas of Sri Lanka which are exclusively reserved for any race, whether Sinhala or Tamil. Sri Lanka is for Sri Lankans irrespective of race and in fact more than half of the total number of Tamils reside in the predominantly Sinhala areas.

Yours faithfully,
WIMAL EDIRIWIRA, President,
The Sri Lanka Association of Britain,
PO Box 717, London, W5,
April 3.

False alarm

From M Henri de St Anthost

Sir, Interestingly, the frequency of bleep of temperature varies directly in relation to temperature. Should Mr Norfolk (April 1) have wished to change the frequency of his alarm call he would only have to stoke up or damp down his fire.

We in France have used time crickets as reliable sonic thermometers for many years. Should Mr Norfolk require a copy of our bleep frequency/temperature converter we will gladly provide one.

Yours faithfully,
HENRI DE ST ANTHOST,
7 rue des Dardennes,
75017 Paris,
France,
April 2.

Value for money in choice of jobs

From Professor Paul Ormerod

Sir, The article by Gavin Davis and David Metcalf (April 9) makes clear the very considerable impact which can be made on unemployment through the use of special employment measures. But their FSBR (public sector borrowing requirement) cost per person removed from unemployment by infrastructure investment is far too high.

The Prime Minister produced, out of the hat, an estimate of the cost per job of infrastructure spending of between £35,000 and £50,000. Davis and Metcalf estimate the unemployment cost in the range of £15,800 to £51,000, with an average of £26,200. Both these estimates are at complete variance with calculations based upon construction industry sources for the labour content of infrastructure spending.

The operative labour content of housing improvement work is no less than 55 per cent, of house building 47 per cent, and of road maintenance work 34 per cent. These figures are based on data produced by the Federation of Civil Engineers, the Building Cost Information Service of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and the National Council of Building Material Producers.

The use of this construction industry information in conjunction with the Treasury economic model produces dramatically lower numbers for the cost of getting Britain back to work. After two years, the FSBR cost per person removed from the unemployment count by infrastructure spending is only £7,000 - barely a quarter of the Davis and Metcalf figure.

It is the use of industry-specific information rather than a purely general macro-economic approach which allows a more accurate assessment to be made. Infrastructure investment is a powerful tool of job creation.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL ORMEROD,
The Henley Centre for Forecasting,
2 Tudor Square,
Blackfriars, EC4,
April 9.

Art restoration

From Miss Valentine Walsh and others

Sir, On Saturday (March 30) you published a synopsis of Mrs Walden's forthcoming book, *The Ravished Image*. From this and other pre-publication publicity we conclude that her view is far from objective.

It is a pity that Mrs Walden sneers at today's responsible scientific approach, which substitutes caution for the old methods of trial and error. She appears to assume that most paintings are in original condition when they reach the restorer.

In practice, they have not only suffered the ravages of time but of earlier attempts at restoration involving extreme methods and over-confident work in media which cannot easily be removed. A balanced presentation of this undeniably important topic must acknowledge that today's restorers are more sensitive than ever before both to the subject matter of their work and to the limitations of their materials.

There is constant and open debate among restorers, both private and public, like ourselves and those

system that is currently yielding high and rising profits but no change in an unacceptable 20 per cent unemployment rate in much of the North. The gap between the "haves" and the "have nots" is widening and Disraeli certainly would have recognised the "two nations" that now exist in this country.

I have just returned from the annual Charterhouse Economics field visit to Liverpool. My students were shocked and angry at the contrast between their own lives here (unemployment in Godalming 3 per cent for the city as a whole with pockets of 50 per cent and more).

They noted the empty streets, the sense of decay and despair, the lack of confidence and listlessness that unemployment has created: they met young people of their own age without hope and contrasted this with their own expectations of further education, good jobs and with it, prosperity in the South.

If this Government - and indeed capitalism as we know it today - is to survive, it is crucial that government and the private sector declare war on unemployment in places such as Liverpool.

My students were impressed by developments in the South Docks area of the city, where they saw companies such as BAT (using some of its recent £1.4 billion profits to aid local small businesses get off the ground in its new enterprise workshops) positively discriminate in favour of such disadvantaged areas whilst the public sector develops the infrastructure. It is inherent in a mixed economy that the public and private sectors work together in partnership.

It is crucial now that industry not only develops its social responsibilities but also appreciates that it is in its long-term economic interest to narrow the differential in unemployment rates between North and South.

Worldwide we have seen too many cases in this century of wide gaps in living standards leading to substantial social and political instability and, apart from all other considerations, this is bad for business. That is the challenge of teaching to change attitudes that face government, CBI, schools and further education at the moment.

Yours faithfully,
D. F. GIBBS,
Charterhouse,
Godalming,
Surrey,
April 4.

working for public museums worldwide, about the solutions to practical and technical problems.

Nor does Mrs Walden refer (other than by an oblique reference to Sir Ernst Gombrich) to the breadth of the aesthetic debate, which has never been concluded.

In view of her criticisms in this respect, we are puzzled to notice that Mrs Walden is not herself a member of the two professional organisations (The United Kingdom Institute for Conservation/International Institute for Conservation and The Association of British Picture Restorers) which actively promote discussion of these issues.

We earnestly hope that art historians will develop their contact with restorers. Thus we may benefit from their connoisseurship, as they do from our increasing ability to analyse works of art scientifically. Mrs Walden says we lack humility. Yet our cardinal rule is that everything we do should be reversible, thereby acknowledging that those who come after us may be able to do better.

Yours faithfully,
VALENTINE WALSH,
ALEXANDRA WALKER,
ANTHEA PELHAM BURN,
465 Battersea Park Road, SW11,
April 2.

publicised. What news, by contrast of the taxation imposed through the back door on gas and water rates, far greater than anything the BBC was requesting?

I suspect that the Government's desire, perhaps unconscious and certainly unlikely to be articulated, is to meddle with a vigorous organization which is completely outside its control and operates, infuriatingly, in a different ethos. This organization speaks directly to the people of this country and abroad. There is a dangerous belief that this is the preserve of governments, paradoxically better achieved by commercialisation and trivialisation.

The BBC needs from the Government only the confidence of an established and entirely independent procedure for fixing its licence fee and so maintaining its very high standards.

Yours faithfully,
JUSTIN CARTWRIGHT,
56 Colebrook Row, N1,
March 28.

Letters of the law

From Mr F. W. Derwent

Sir, In calling for stiffer examinations of trainee drivers (report, April 2) the Driving Instructors' Association ask particularly for superior testing of eyesight. Perhaps we should first ensure that the lettering on vehicle registration plates is of the same high quality as that on opticians' test cards. The flat-topped letter A and the heavily-waisted X to be seen on some recent cars are all too readily confused with R and K.

Recovery from these retrograde steps in typography could be completed by dropping the fully legible but singularly ugly figure 4 which appeared at about the same time.

Yours faithfully,
F. W. DERWENT,
11 London Road,
Liphook,
Hampshire,
April 2.

ON THIS DAY

[CHARTISM]

APRIL 11 1848

Chartism originated in May 1838 and took its name from the People's Charter - a bill calling for changes which the Reform Act of 1832 had not touched on. It was a working class, national movement, one which dreamt of a new social order, and which was, in Carlyle's words, a "revolt and a fork question". Conventions and petitions were organized under the leadership of Feargus O'Connor (1794-1855), but for a number of reasons the movement declined and the demonstration of April 1848 was the last burst of Chartism's revolutionary energy. The extract below is from a 5,000 words coverage of the day's events.

KENNINGTON-COMMON

A few letters read the proclamation posted in the neighbourhood, and discussed the probabilities of a collision or of quietude, and even as late as 8 or a quietude there were no outward or visible signs that Kennington-common was to be applied to, any other purpose than that ordinary use. The rain, which had fallen heavily during the night, made some but no very great impression on the usual firmness of the surface, and upon the whole the parties determined to form the Chartist demonstration could not have selected a site better suited to their objects, and the weather proved equally favourable to their wishes. Several of the shops in the neighbourhood were not opened, while those which did venture to do a little business had all their shutters closed before 10 o'clock, and for the most part strongly secured.

At about a quarter past 10 o'clock the first detachment of those who were properly speaking, to compose the meeting, arrived at the northern extremity of the common (that is, in the direction of the Elephant and Castle). In a few minutes afterwards the head of another procession, approaching from the Canalside New-road appeared at the southern extremity of the common, and the meeting was to take place. Both entered the common pretty nearly at the same time, and having marched round it, united their forces. At this time the strength perhaps have been 3,000 or 4,000 persons assembled. In the course of the next half-hour successive bodies of men continued to arrive and take up stations on the common, until at length the total number present could not have been less than 20,000.

It was half past 11 o'clock before the delegates and leaders of this numerous body reached the place of meeting, and their appearance was, of course greeted by enthusiastic shouts of applause. The chief orators were conveyed in a very spacious van, adorned with the tricolour, and preceded by banners and music. The larger flags were tricolour, the smaller bore numbers black, on a white ground, answering to the numbers of the delegates, and the division to which they belonged. A smaller car, decorated like the greater vehicle, contained some men and a few women. In this machine was deposited the monster petition. It will be readily assumed that the petition, which 5,000 or 6,000 persons could hear the speakers who endeavoured to address this numerous meeting; and those who pressed close to the principle van did not greatly exceed that number, the rest of them being persons of the scene. This necessarily led to several skirmishes, forming slight and somewhat amusing episodes in the drama of the day. As will be seen from the report of the speeches, distinct sets of orators occupied the attention of the assembly. At about half-past 12 o'clock strong excitement manifested itself on the western boundary of the common, in consequence of Mr O'Connor having descended from his van and entered the ranks of the ranks in the direction of the Horse Tavern. He looked extremely ill, and seemed to walk with great difficulty, leaning on two persons. We understand he took a cab, and proceeded towards Waterloo Bridge.

From this time forward the chief interest of the affair was at an end; a few more speeches were delivered, and the vans having been withdrawn from under the main body of the crowd, the multitude began to disperse, one portion going in the direction of Lambeth, the other towards Newington, and not about 1,000 persons on the common. About this time three hackney cabs were seen to draw up close to the van which contained the petition and that huge document having been divided into three parts, one was placed on the roof of each of the cabs, and members of the Chartist body having taken their seats inside, the whole body drove off in the direction of the house of Parliament by way of Vauxhall Bridge.

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Art in lieu of tax

From the Editor of Apollo

Sir, Our generation and succeeding ones owe a great debt to those members of the Sainsbury family who have agreed to finance the new wing of the National Gallery. Let one good turn deserve another. But we hope that Mr Thatcher, in her searching mind to grapple with the relatively simple problem of the acceptance of works of art in lieu of tax.

If steps are not taken to employ this arrangement grievous gaps will occur in some of the galleries in the new building; the works that should have been in them will have gone abroad.

I am your obedient servant,
DENYS SUTTON, Editor,
Apollo,
22 Davies Street, W1,
April 4.

Conditioned reflex

From Mr Robert McCreath

Sir, Mrs Forsyth (March 25) and Dr Herbert (March 16) are concerned about being polite to machines. I recently found myself thanking somebody who had just mugged me, for returning £10 of his takings. Perhaps, after all, it is possible to be too well brought up.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT MCCREATH,
11 Larkhall Rise,
Stockwell, SW4,
March 25.

THE ARTS

Television
Theatrical spirits

The fog was as much a blessing for *Bleak House* (BBC 2) as it was for Dickens's novel and, even if there was an unmistakable air of Hammer Horror Productions in this recreation of early nineteenth-century London, it was nevertheless a miracle of reconstruction. The mud and the fith were almost Stygian - perhaps, on reflection, it was slightly overdone but once one enters the theatrical spirit of the occasion it must be difficult to know when precisely to stop.

The same fidelity was not lavished on the text, however, and there were occasions when this adaptation introduced both plot and character in too abrupt a fashion. Poor Jo made a premature if affecting entrance, and Mrs Jellyby (plus family) seems to have been despatched to her beloved Africa for the duration. Arthur Hopcraft has in fact pared down the novel to its more powerfully suggestive moments, but this renders it more sinister than comic; its effects were in some ways closer to Dostoevsky than to Dickens, although of course this is not necessarily a disadvantage.

Although mercifully the series has been moved from the characteristic Dickens "spot" in the twilight hour of Sunday, where it was generally regarded as a substitute for religious service, there are still problems with what has become, over the passage of many years, the BBC edition of Dickens. Since actors must take the place of characters, and images of sentences, the novels become the vehicle for quite different concerns - high among them being something known as "production values".

This would not be so large a problem (after all, the original sketches for *Bleak House* by Phiz were in some ways alien to the text) if it were not for the fact that television adaptation becomes almost a substitute for the actual thing. And, perhaps more importantly, it determines our memory of it in this case, it will be difficult to read *Bleak House* again without conjuring up Diana Rigg as Lady Dedlock and Denholm Elliott as John Jarndyce. It is a problem for those who like their fiction "straight".

Peter Ackroyd

United States theatre:
Irving Wardle in Los Angeles

One huge factory of entertainment

Theatrical, as in every other respect, Los Angeles is blanketed in legend - a looking-glass country for foreigners arriving there (thanks to Pacific Standard Time) shortly before they set out, and an El Dorado for US citizens trying to escape from America without actually leaving the country. Coming down to earth, it is also the home of some half-million actors, few of whom can scrape a professional living from the greatest entertainment factory on the planet.

Unlike other towns housing such respected institutions as Chicago's Goodman Theatre or the Guthrie in Minneapolis, Los Angeles does not see itself as a "resident theatre" centre but as an alternative cultural capital - the Leningrad to New York's Moscow. Its big-house productions are ballasted with international stars. When *Cats* or *La Cage aux folles* are repackaged for the Shubert and the Pantages, they are billed as bigger and better than Broadway, thus reassuring the subscription public, but bringing small comfort to the unemployed legion camping out in the San Diego Valley.

In acknowledgment of their plight, Equity in the mid-1970s introduced a "Waiver Agreement" licensing unpaid performance in theatres with a top seating capacity of 99. As a result, tiny "waiver houses" have mushroomed throughout the city and up into the hills.

Their quality (legend again) is said generally to be dreadful; and, from the listings in *LA Weekly*, I did not feel much drawn to *A Curious Savage* ("A teddy bear is the pivotal character in John Patrick's comedy about an eccentric heiress") or a revival of *Look Back in Anger* featuring a black Jimmy Fortier. The waiver show I did see - the Odyssey Theatre's *Rap Master Romp* - belied this ill-repute: a sharp political cabaret played with great snap and cunning use of restricted space. The street door opens straight into a bare rectangular room, with spectators grouped on two sides

facing an Olympian vision of limitless ocean and a towering marble Capitol topped off with battered leather throne. Here sits the President, alias Old Rawhide, smoozing through the days from 12 until five in the afternoon, and otherwise descending to deliver spine-chilling policy statements and pump the hands of his fellow Americans.

The work of Elizabeth Swados and the cartoonist Garry Trudeau, the show consists of 18 numbers, each one prompted by a Reagan pronouncement. "If there's one thing I like," runs an ecological ballad, "it's taming a killer tree" (hardly an exaggeration of the White House view that "80 per cent of our air pollution stems from hydrocarbons released by vegetation") while the joyous slogan "The truth is, there are simple answers" yields a full-throated bingo finale, with the prize-winning offer of a "free lunch at the Sunset Strip Good Time Cafe where ketchup still counts as a vegetable". John Rostad plays the Great Communicator in the likeness of an ancient rubber doll, but without the grotesque overkill of the *Spitting Image* team; indeed, the most pointed tactic of the performance is that it presents a mild-mannered and seemingly kind-hearted old party who only freezes the blood when you reflect on what he has just said.

Waivers apart, the Los Angeles theatre is divided between commercial houses and repertoires enjoying some degree of public funding. Changes are under way in the latter department. The Mark Taper Forum (one of the city's best kept secrets) has just leased one of the main commercial houses - the Huntington Hartford Theatre - with the aim of running simultaneous classical and new-play seasons, and raising a \$4 m. budget towards that great American rarity a resident company (whether, once formed, its members will be able to resist the mummifying lure of feature-films, sitcoms and soap



remains to be seen). Meanwhile, the Los Angeles Actors Theatre - at present soldiering on with Beckett's *Company* in a poverty-stricken chicano area - is due to benefit from a downtown development scheme which, by September, promises to rehouse it in no fewer than four theatres (funded to the tune of \$17 m. from CBS and private sources) including a classical annex directed by Charles Marowitz, late of London's Open Space.

For the time being Marowitz is visible only in a guise unrecognizable to Londoners, as the author of a long-running commercial hit, *Sherlock's Last Case*, at the Mayfair. The piece, in fact, originated in Tottenham

Court Road in the 1970s when, on the last minute collapse of Brecht's *Messingkauf Dialogues*, Marowitz knocked out a 90-minute filler about Watson murdering Holmes and rushed it on under the pseudonym of Matthew Lang. Subsequently, Lang also met an untimely end, and Marowitz was prevailed upon to add a second act, in which the piece won loud acclaim at last year's Olympic Arts Festival before embarking on its present run.

So far as plot is concerned, there is no way of topping the original ending, with the enigmatic Holmes strapped into a Frontenac chair and inhaling deadly vapours cooked up in

the style of a *maitre d'hôtel* by his erstwhile assistant. What the new version does achieve is to transform a Guignol joke into a sustained onslaught on Holmes's sacred person. Passages of fluent pastiche, where simply the style is being mocked, alternate with moments when the mask cracks and the great sleuth is nakedly exposed as a narcissistic, arrogant skinflint whom, if he had had any sense, Watson would have bumped off years before. However untypical of Marowitz's avant-garde operations, the piece continues the same kind of illuminating disrespect with which he dismembered *Hamlet* back in the 1960s. The Mayfair - built as an

A role offering great opportunities to the specialist in psychotic acting: Andrew Robinson (left) with Andy Wood in *In the Belly of the Beast*, to be seen at the Lyric, Hammersmith, next month

English music-hall, and a darkly forbidding place despite its Victorian mirrors and walls of old Empire stars - is an ideal setting for this operation. Play and playing space are also superbly matched in the Mark Taper production of *In the Belly of the Beast*, a scrupulous and skilful adaptation by Adrian Hall from the writings and statements of Jack Henry Abbott. With a capacity of 750, the Taper consists of a semi-circular auditorium half enclosing a rectangular platform open to the back wall. The word "Forum" defines its character precisely: it is a place where evidence can be presented without dissimulation for the public to examine and discuss.

Jack Abbott, first taken into custody at the age of nine and briefly released 28 years later when he killed a restaurant waiter the night before his published *Letters from Prison* were rapturously reviewed in the *New York Times* - can be seen either as a public enemy or a creation of the penal system. The only thing beyond dispute is his command of words. Mr Hall's text is assembled from Abbott's book and from interviews and court transcripts, from which you can well understand the fascination he had for Norman Mailer (a parallel case would be Sarrre and Gennet).

Robert Woodruff's production exemplifies the stage's function of enlarging understanding without passing judgement. It presents the most horrendous evidence with cool restraint; and periodically releases full atmospheric resources to immerse you in Abbott's own experiences. The audience get 90 seconds of his 28 days in a blacked-out cell, following the doomed writer with Abbott's own paranoid eye, suspecting that he may strike first. The role itself offers great opportunities for American specialists in psychotic acting, unenvyingly seized at the Taper by Andrew Robinson. London audiences will be seeing a Chicago version of this play at the Lyric, Hammersmith, in May.

Dance
Ballet de Montréal
Sadler's Wells

First the good news. The second week's programme by the visiting company from Quebec is more varied in mood than the first, and for part of the evening gets away from the uniform white tights. That said, I have to add that it does not fundamentally change one's view of the Ballet de Montréal as having been much too ambitious in risking its luck with a London season.

Eddy Toussaint's choreography is really like blown-up cabaret numbers for classical dancers. That is why the short, occasionally sexy duet last week was the best of their presentations. This week's programme retains the ballet to Bruch's First Violin Concerto, which contains some of the same sort of thing on a bigger, more involved scale, and does at least offer the chance to hear live music well played. The rest of the show is again recorded.

That is welcome for the seven tangos by Astor Piazzolla which accompany the composing work, since the composers' own recordings have a lot of atmosphere. Unfortunately, that is more than can be said of Toussaint's dance arrange-

ments, which are all superficial gestures that turn out to mean nothing. The title *Facades* proves only too apt.

Shortened, and in parts better danced than some of this company manage, it would be well enough as an episode in a variety show, but it comes nowhere near matching the quality of its music. Neither does *Le Mer*, which is the one offering by another choreographer, Dorny Reiter-Soffer. Poor Debussy's score gets a bit mangled over the loudspeakers while the dancers roll, yearn, wave their bottoms.

The remaining piece by Toussaint, *Sourvenance*, started with three dancers suffering in isolated spotlights. After a round or two of this, the girl in white tights danced with the man with a bare chest. Then the man in black shirt, tie and trousers took over for two duets, one with her, one with the other chap. After which we knew there had to be a short trio and a return to the opening poses. There was.

Incidentally, it might have been courteous and helpful to have announced a change in the running order before it happened. Many spectators must have been mystified on Tuesday.

John Percival

Opera
Fidelio
Coliseum

A new shaft of light has lifted the spirit of Joachim Herz's production of *Fidelio*, five years on and now two-thirds of the way through its current run. Elizabeth Vaughan, who has taken over the Leonore for now just two remaining performances, sharpens its focus and tightens its grip. English National Opera have had as much trouble over the years as anyone in finding a Leonore who can both sing the role and be it: Ms Vaughan, as is so often her way, achieves the first by means of the second, and to unusually compelling effect.

Her voice is hard to love: its thrust is that of the trumpet rather than of the trumpet and its muscular portamento is over-strenuous in yanking the voice up from its boots. But these qualities are soon swept up in the momentum of her single-minded commitment to the role. This very dedication, so powerfully projected and

integrated into the character of Leonore herself, fuels both her own vocal stamina and the dramatic tension in the air around her.

Malcolm Donnelly's Pizarro and Dennis Wick's Rocco, already resonant of voice and characterization, stand out the more boldly in her presence, and, indeed, in that of the new Florestan, Graeme Matheson-Bruce. From his first cry, wrenched from and reverberating through his entire body, this is a Florestan to be reckoned with and, surely, to return in a first cast. His drama comes from deep inside his voice, and so, more unusually, does the full strength of Beethoven's lyricism. It was a rare pleasure to hear the great duet so truly and brightly intoned.

Mark Elder has now passed on the baton to Lionel Friend who, in keeping with the production itself, provides the firm outlines and the intense energy, but never quite the sublimity, of Beethoven's score.

Hilary Finch

Paul Griffiths reports on Baden-Baden's sixtieth-birthday tribute to its most celebrated resident, Pierre Boulez (right)

Awesome gifts untarnished yet

Modern music grows old alarmingly. Pierre Boulez now is 60, and the opportunity was taken to celebrate with a long weekend of concerts and an exhibition in Baden-Baden, which has been his home town since 1959. This solidly respectable spa, this German Cheltenham, survived having Berlioz and Brahms as summer visitors in the 1860s, but perhaps has never quite got used to housing a master of the avant-garde. I heard one lady patiently explaining to her elderly husband about this "Homage to Pierre Boulez" that was supposed to be going on. He turned swiftly to her: "Er is tot oder?"

In truth there were moments when it was a bit like that. The nature of exhibitions is to seem commemorative rather than jubilant, and the long glass cases in the Kunsthalle, housing scores, sketches, letters, postcards and photographs, did convey a funeral solemnity not altogether alleviated by the reverberating sound of the *Ring* being eternally replayed in some part of the building.

On closer inspection, though,

the whole thing came to life. Word of mouth had always had it that Boulez's teenage counterpoint exercises were enough to make one's hair stand on end: here was a page of seven-part essays to prove not only that he could rival Obrecht but also that his neatly minuscule handwriting has not changed in more than 40 years. There was also a stylistic exercise, a setting of Psalm 97 in four-part canon by the late-widow of one of his Polyphonic X of 1950-51 and then in another chamber heard on tape this extraordinary Utopian fantasy of what orchestral music might be: a cross-current of solo phrases and sentences in limbo, conducted with remarkable authority by Hans Rosbaud, but causing increasing restlessness in its audience.

Tantalizing glimpses of letters from Cage, dating from this same period, bore witness to their friendship. Cage in 1950, having recently returned to New York from Paris, was quite the modernist, scoffing at composers of penitonic music and

looking forward to meeting Milton Babbitt. By 1952 he was suggesting that his next work would be long and forever unfinished: perhaps it has been so.

A more durable friend was Stockhausen, whom one found in a moving letter of February 1960 responding to criticism Boulez had evidently voiced about his recent *Zyklus* for solo percussionist. He obviously wanted to write off Boulez's misgivings but could not bring himself to do so, feeling as he did that Boulez "gave the measure" to what he wrote.

It is doubtful that the older Stockhausen still feels the same way, but still his was the most touching contribution to a concert of tributes from contemporaries and disciples. The piece was his *Klavierstück XIV*, very much in the style of its two predecessors but shorter, performed here by Pierre-Laurent Aimard, complete with his kisses blown towards the dedicatee.

Other homages were perhaps more straightforward, but testified as much to the respect and affection Boulez enjoys from his most eminent colleagues. Elliott Carter provided a witty flute-clarinete dialogue with the apt title of *Esprit rude, esprit doux*. From Berio there was a jittery little wind quintet, from Nono a bit of heavy breathing for bass cote, contrabass clarinet and electronics, from Bussotti an



impassioned fragment of viola concerto, from Holliger a straining from nine instruments towards the upper limits of audibility rendered extrinsically on tape, from Denisov a coolly romantic adagio for horn and ensemble, from Häller an impeccably professional *Improvisation sur le nom Pierre Boulez*.

One begins to sound like the registrar of gifts at a wedding, but the real essence of this festival was to provide a little retrospective of Boulez's own works - one holding surprises at every turn. I doubt, for instance, that *Le Marteau sans maître* has often been played with such a taut combination of loveliness and attack as Boulez himself here obtained from members of the Ensemble InterContemporain with Elizabeth Laurence. The pace was generous, the phrasing ample as Boulez now likes it, but the feeling was electric, the xylo-rimba player and percussionist pounding on their parts. It is time Boulez made another recording of the work, prefer-

ably with these musicians, for Miss Laurence has the rare ability to execute the *Sperrschlag* without sounding venomous: she has a gloriously full yet fresh tone.

Other discoveries included the Arditi Quartet playing the whole 40 minutes of the published *Quatre pour quatuor*, where highly elaborate crystal castles are made only to be left uninhabited, and Pi-Hsien Chen playing the intertemperate early *Natations* for piano. The ninth of these 12 pieces, which keeps insisting on a note in the extreme bass, is within its miniature terms a rage against annihilation to be played with the finale of Mahler's Sixth Symphony, and I hope Boulez will allow the set to be published, even though he is now working on orchestral developments of his teenage sketches. Bernhard Wambach's beautiful resonances and alacritous rhythms in the Third Piano Sonata ought also to have been a stimulus towards getting that work completed.

Meanwhile Boulez's hottest work in progress is *Répons*, for six electronically modulated tuned percussion and small orchestra. Since the performance at the 1982 Froms the work has grown again to 45 minutes, at which length it begins to seem more at ease, more equal to the space it occupies. Boulez has added a sequence of fantastic dances, led by the main orchestra and excellently conducted here by Peter Eötvös, who was overseeing this complex score for the first time. After this comes a quiescent cadenza for the percussion soloists alone: a coda in the present context, but surely no more than a lull before the battle is re-engaged.

One may hesitate to agree with the view recently expressed by Jean-Jacques Nattiez, the guru of musical semiotics, that *Répons* is a modern masterpiece on the level of *Pelléas et Mélisande* or *The Rite of Spring*, but it certainly is a marvel. Boulez at 60 remains the most awesomely gifted of composers.

Galleries

The Saatchi Collection
Boundary Road, NW8

In the art of the Seventies it often became a major problem to work out how we could know the dancer from the dance, or the installation from the installed. This problem crops up again in the first selection from the Saatchi Collection displayed at its impressive new space at 98a Boundary Road, NW8 (just where it crosses Abbey Road). The space itself is so extraordinary: an erstwhile factory which has been stripped and painted white, with pale grey floors (in a couple of areas slightly, disquietingly sloping), it enables the works on show to float in a visually undefined, dizzying void where one loses most sense of scale and perspective. Rooms of round the galleries (five of them, interconnected, plus an entrance area) is rather like finding oneself marooned in an Antonioni film of the Sixties, and the cinematic image persists as one tracks and pans and zooms from one thing to another.

All this kinetic experience



Part of the Warhol display, with Marilyn x 100 on the back wall

leaves reaction to the quality of the works themselves rather to one side. The present selection (the collection itself is too large, both in numbers and in size of individual pieces, to be shown all at once) features just four artists (apart from the two works in the entrance), and all of those in depth.

The first hall one enters has eight sculptures - for want of a better term - by Donald Judd, ranging in size from a small galvanized iron piece, only 40

inches long, to a vast wooden construction, similarly unutilized, which runs to some 70 feet in length and is over 11 feet high. I must confess to remaining quite unexcited by any of them, but their effect all together in this vast space is certainly spectacular. Then there are a room of Brice Marden minimal abstractions (mostly two or three panels of plain colour juxtaposed), a roomful of Cy Twombly's sophisticated graffiti, and two rooms of classic

THE SEAGULL
Cast
Alfred Burke
Samantha Eggar
Roger Hammond
Ronald Hines
John Hurt
John Lynch
Phoebe Nicholls
Natasha Richardson
Jean Rimmer
Peter Wright
Directed by
CHARLES STURIDGE
APRIL 22-JUNE 1
Lyric Theatre
BOX OFFICE
01-741 2311

THE POLICE
How can the motorist defend himself against the police? Find out in this week's Motor. Some of Britain's top legal experts advise drivers just how to react when stopped; on what to say - and what not to say. Also in the new-look, new-style Motor the wraps are pulled off the new Fiat Uno Turbo and there's a test of the new front-drive Toyota Starlet. Also find out the latest in car hi-fi and all the details of the Brazilian Grand Prix. All in the new-look Motor, hitting out hard on behalf of motorists everywhere.

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THE TIMES Portfolio

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14	UKO	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	20.0
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22	British Telecom	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	20.0
23	Crystal	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	20.0
24	Energy Services	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	20.0
25	Cable & Wireless	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	20.0
26	BSR	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	20.0
27	RCC	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	20.0
28	Royal Elec	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	20.0
29	Plenco	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	20.0
30	OEC	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	20.0
31	Sound Diffusion	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	20.0
32	DRAPERY AND STORES					
33	Hopworth (J)	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	20.0
34	Combined English	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	20.0
35	Menzies (J)	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	20.0
36	Stanley AGI	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	20.0
37	Debenhams	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	20.0
38	Bentalls	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	20.0
39	Forminter	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	20.0
40	Rangers (Jewellers)	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	20.0
41	Moss Bros	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	20.0
42	Burton	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	20.0

Weekly Dividend						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	WEEKLY

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

1984/85 High Low Stock Price Dividend % P/E

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

Five to fifteen years

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

UNLISTED

INDEX LINKED

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

ELECTRICALS

INDUSTRIALS A-D

INDUSTRIALS E-K

INDUSTRIALS L-R

INDUSTRIALS S-Z

INDUSTRIALS

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Modest progress

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, March 25; Dealings End, April 12; 5 Contango Day, April 15; Settlement Day, April 22
9 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

1984/85 High	1984/85 Low	Company	Price	Dividend	%	P/E
11.00	10.50	Glaxo	10.75	0.50	4.6	21.5
1.00	0.95	Beck's	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Anglo	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Kwik Save	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Fraser & Neave	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Sainsbury (J)	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Nim Foods	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Home Farm	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Brown Food	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0

BUILDING AND ROADS						
1984/85 High	1984/85 Low	Company	Price	Dividend	%	P/E
11.00	10.50	Glaxo	10.75	0.50	4.6	21.5
1.00	0.95	Beck's	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Anglo	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Kwik Save	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Fraser & Neave	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Sainsbury (J)	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Nim Foods	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Home Farm	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Brown Food	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0

FINANCE AND LAND						
1984/85 High	1984/85 Low	Company	Price	Dividend	%	P/E
11.00	10.50	Glaxo	10.75	0.50	4.6	21.5
1.00	0.95	Beck's	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Anglo	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Kwik Save	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Fraser & Neave	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Sainsbury (J)	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Nim Foods	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Home Farm	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Brown Food	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS						
1984/85 High	1984/85 Low	Company	Price	Dividend	%	P/E
11.00	10.50	Glaxo	10.75	0.50	4.6	21.5
1.00	0.95	Beck's	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Anglo	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Kwik Save	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Fraser & Neave	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Sainsbury (J)	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Nim Foods	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Home Farm	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Brown Food	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0

CINEMAS AND TV						
1984/85 High	1984/85 Low	Company	Price	Dividend	%	P/E
11.00	10.50	Glaxo	10.75	0.50	4.6	21.5
1.00	0.95	Beck's	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Anglo	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Kwik Save	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Fraser & Neave	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Sainsbury (J)	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Nim Foods	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Home Farm	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Brown Food	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0

DRAPERY AND STORES						
1984/85 High	1984/85 Low	Company	Price	Dividend	%	P/E
11.00	10.50	Glaxo	10.75	0.50	4.6	21.5
1.00	0.95	Beck's	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Anglo	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Kwik Save	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Fraser & Neave	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Sainsbury (J)	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Nim Foods	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Home Farm	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Brown Food	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0

HOTELS AND CATERERS						
1984/85 High	1984/85 Low	Company	Price	Dividend	%	P/E
11.00	10.50	Glaxo	10.75	0.50	4.6	21.5
1.00	0.95	Beck's	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Anglo	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Kwik Save	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Fraser & Neave	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Sainsbury (J)	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Nim Foods	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Home Farm	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Brown Food	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0

INDUSTRIALS A-D						
1984/85 High	1984/85 Low	Company	Price	Dividend	%	P/E
11.00	10.50	Glaxo	10.75	0.50	4.6	21.5
1.00	0.95	Beck's	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Anglo	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Kwik Save	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Fraser & Neave	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Sainsbury (J)	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Nim Foods	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Home Farm	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Brown Food	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0

INDUSTRIALS E-K						
1984/85 High	1984/85 Low	Company	Price	Dividend	%	P/E
11.00	10.50	Glaxo	10.75	0.50	4.6	21.5
1.00	0.95	Beck's	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Anglo	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Kwik Save	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Fraser & Neave	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Sainsbury (J)	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Nim Foods	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Home Farm	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0
1.00	0.95	Brown Food	0.98	0.05	5.1	20.0

INDUSTRIALS L-R						
1984/85 High	1984/85 Low	Company	Price	Dividend	%	P/E
41	36	Dow Pl	42	..	1.1	3.8
31	28	Spencer (AG)	32	..	4.2	11.5
53	45	Ten Consume	44	..	5.1	13.5
85	85	Smiths	84	..	5.1	4.8
55	55	Superphos	56	..	6.0	15.8
373	373	Superphos Stores	368	..	6.0	15.4
53	45	Ten Consume	59	..	5.1	11.7
27	27	Yates	27	..	1.4	8.8
27	27	Yates Products	321	..	1.4	8.8
136	136	Vesta's Vesta	321	..	14.5	4.5
101	101	WV Group	100	..	11.5	8.1
114	114	West Vesta	114	..	11.5	8.1
166	166	WV Group	167	..	7.8	13.5
210	210	WV Group	210	..	7.8	13.5
145	145	WV Group	145	..	7.8	13.5
11	11	WV Group	11	..	7.8	13.5
11	11	WV Group	11	..	7.8	13.5
11	11	WV Group	11	..	7.8	13.5
11	11	WV Group	11	..	7.8	13.5
11	11	WV Group	11	..	7.8	13.5
11	11	WV Group	11	..	7.8	13.5
11	11	WV Group	11	..	7.8	13.5
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11	11	WV Group	11	..	7.8	13.5
11	11	WV Group	11	..	7.8	13.5
11	11	WV Group	11	..	7.8	13.5
11	11	WV Group	11	..	7.8	13.5
11	11	WV Group	11	..	7.8	13.5
11	11	WV Group	11	..		

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Money supply justifies official caution

Yesterday, the Bank of England needed to produce money supply figures which would achieve consistency with the Governor's statement last week to the Treasury Select Committee that monetary growth would remain within the 1984-85 target range. But the Bank also needed to justify some of its warning statements recently about the pace of bank lending, which have been used to justify a far more cautious attitude on the part of the authorities towards interest rate cuts.

It transpired that Sterling M3 may have risen by about 1 per cent in banking March. This leaves the growth rate between February 1984 and March 1985, at an annual rate of about 10 per cent, or just at the top of the target range, with only one month of the 14-month period still to go. Yet the comments accompanying the figures suggest that demand for credit is still very expansionary. Specifically, the Committee of London Clearing Banks described the growth in sterling advances in banking March as very substantial.

Numerically, this comment translates into a clearing bank lending figure of £1.7 billion, or nearly 95 per cent of total lending by the banking sector. What seems to have happened is that large borrowers, anticipating a fall in UK interest rates, switched their borrowing from fixed-rate bill finance in banking March to the cheaper overdraft facilities, aided in turn by the exceptionally high overnight rates round about make-up day at the end of the banking month.

But will the clearers see a corresponding switch back into bill finance during the current month, now that the authorities appear to be suggesting that further cuts in rates may well be delayed? It seems unlikely that the clearing banks, who are keen to increase their market share of total lending, will surrender their gains last month easily. Hence the competition for credit business seems likely to keep growing.

Thus the Treasury line last night that sterling lending should respond, albeit slowly, to the new level and structure of interest rates appears to point quite clearly towards a very much more gradualist approach towards rate cuts. And yesterday's figures justify the caution even though Barclays and Midland may shortly come into line with other clearers by cutting base rates. Nevertheless, the authorities face problems in exchange-rate management. Sterling was firm yesterday against both the dollar and, more awkwardly, the German mark.

Arguably, yesterday's figures also point to possible monetary problems accruing from UK exchange rate management. Foreign holdings in sterling rose again, this time by some £600 million, possibly reflecting official foreign exchange trading to prevent sterling rising too sharply last month. But to some analysts at least, these deposits, available for on-lending in the banking system, help to aggravate the problem of domestic bank lending. The funding programme in banking March tells a similar story. Gross estimated gilt sales of £2 billion net down to just £0.9 billion of debt sold for official monetary control purposes. Last month's aggressive gilt sales by the Government Broker perhaps took in far more than just UK buyers.

Inflationary realism and Mrs Thatcher

If Mrs Thatcher is to get inflation down to 3 per cent before the next election, as suggested by her interview with *The Standard* yesterday, her Chancellor's own Medium-Term Financial Strategy would suggest a trip to the polls at the last possible moment.

To be fair to the Prime Minister, she only endorsed a 3 per cent target as realistic sometime in the next two or three years. But the MTFs shows inflation falling to this level only in the financial year 1988-89 - beginning three years from now and quickly taking the Government beyond the deadline for the next election.

Admittedly, the downward path traced out by the MTFs is so gradual that the target for 1987-88 is insignificantly different - only 3½ per cent for the GDP deflator. But it was published last year, before sterling's steepest slide, and the Chancellor's short-term forecasts have had to be shaded up this spring.

A further question-mark hangs over Mrs Thatcher's comments on pensions. Apart from the (surely unintended) sexism of her aim to make "every man a capitalist", which is merely an echo of her strategic aim to extend the property-owning democracy from home ownership to personal possession of financial assets, she did suggest that the Government is intending to make the personal link between pension contributions and payouts closer than its existing proposals for portable pensions would suggest. But Prime Ministerial ambition and legislative reality are often a long way apart.

The Governor in yesterday's world

Last night Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Governor of the Bank of England, gave the latest in his prolonged series of speeches touching on the developments taking place in the City. It is, as far as the official release goes, his shortest but possibly his least timely comment.

In essence, his audience heard a belated appeal for a return to the City of the days when it was run by the spirit of the law, the unwritten caveats which no one needed to refer to because everyone knew them. In a world when disclosure was limited, and that privilege was accepted because it was broadly believed that disclosure was unnecessary. It would achieve next to nothing because there was next to nothing of public interest to disclose.

"I believe that this tradition has been widely regarded as one of the strengths of the City," said Mr Leigh-Pemberton. "We may now be confronted with a different kind of risk - the risk of a subtle change in the culture of financial markets in London."

That risk, not to put too fine a point on it, is one which leads inexorably to seemingly endless volumes of legislation and regulation, and every dispute being settled in the courts by cohorts of lawyers. As the Governor put it: "In centres where supervisors commonly define their requirements quite legally, it is accepted practice to put the text of any requirement under a microscope to test for loopholes. I think I have detected one or twice recently signs that, within the City, some may be tempted to move towards a similar approach. Were my fears to be confirmed, it would be a very sad day for all of us, for one of the great strengths of London as a financial centre had been its tradition of looking to the spirit rather than to the letter as a means of maintaining, or even raising, our standards and behaviour."

It is hard not to share Mr Leigh-Pemberton's sadness. But equally, it has to be faced that we are fast passing that point, if it is not already past. The gradual strangulation of the Takeover Panel is testimony enough to that, together with the long-running saga at Lloyd's - a problem which was tackled only by resort to Act of Parliament. Regrettably, we must deal with the world as it is and not as we would like it to be.

Goldsmith puts up \$807m in California takeover battle

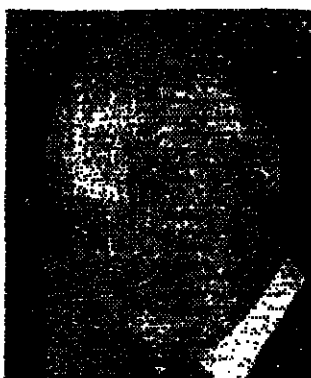
By Our City Staff

Sir James Goldsmith, the colourful Anglo-French multi-millionaire now based in America, yesterday bid \$807 million (£670 million) for Crown Zellerbach, the San Francisco forest products group.

Crown said it had not yet received formal notification of the tender offer and had no immediate comment.

Sir James made the offer, which seeks to acquire control of Crown Zellerbach and elect new board members, through CZC Acquisition Corporation, a subsidiary of GOSL Acquisition Corporation. GOSL is part of General Oriental, a holding company based in Hong Kong. Sources close to Sir James said CZC and GOSL were created for the purpose of making the tender offer.

The offer is conditional on at least 14 million shares being tendered and on acquiring sufficient financing. That would



Sir James undaunted by Crown rebuttal

give Sir James control. In addition, it requires Crown Zellerbach's board to waive the rights to use an anti-takeover measure. If the rights are not waived, the offer says, CZC Acquisition would purchase as many as 19 million Crown Zellerbach shares.

The anti-takeover measure,

adopted by the company last year, allows shareholders after an unfriendly takeover to buy 20 shares of the surviving entity for the price of one.

The rights cannot be exercised until someone acquires 20 per cent of the company's shares or makes an offer for 30 per cent or more of its 27.2 million shares.

The offer and probation periods expire on May 7, and the withdrawal rights will expire on April 30. Rothschild Incorporated, the American branch of the Rothschild international banking group that is one of Sir James's investment bankers, and Drexel Burnham Lambert were making the offer on his behalf.

Sir James had earlier threatened to launch a proxy battle for a seat on the 13-member board unless the company dropped the anti-takeover measure.

Acting separately, Crown Zellerbach shareholders have

filed suit in a federal court in Chicago in an attempt to stop the company's anti-takeover plan.

They contend that the anti-takeover plan does not protect shareholders' rights.

Mr William Creson, Crown Zellerbach's chairman, president and chief executive officer, has previously rejected all overtures from Sir James. He has already earmarked 700,000 acres of timberland as "non-strategic" to the company's pulp and paper mill operations, land that could be placed in a limited partnership by Crown Zellerbach as an anti-takeover device.

Sir James is believed to be pursuing Crown Zellerbach for its timber assets.

One source close to him said that a timber-trust partnership "separates the ownership of the timber from the rest of the company, and if management does that, it shows they care only about management, not the shareholders."

Phillips & Drew to buy stake in jobber

By William Kay City Editor

Phillips & Drew, the stock-broking firm which is due to be taken over by Union Bank of Switzerland, said yesterday that it has reached agreement in principle to buy a 5 per cent stake in Mouldale, a seven-partner firm of gilt-edged jobbers based in Liverpool.

As soon as the Stock Exchange rules permit, probably next March, Phillips & Drew will take steps to buy the remaining shares in the firm.

This is the latest in the long series of mergers planned to take advantage of the so-called "big bang" on the Stock Exchange, at present set for October next year. This will abandon the present tariff of fees dealing commissions, permit member firms to be both jobbers and brokers, and allow outsiders to buy control of member firms.

Mr Bryce Cottrell, senior partner of Phillips & Drew, one of the biggest broking firms in the country, said: "We knew Mouldale very well and liked them. We had already got our plans for the future gilt-edged market, and were thinking towards acquiring potential for market-making. Mouldale has a country-wide coverage, and we both felt we could be market leaders in the gilt field."

Mouldale had historically been a jobber in railway shares. When these were exchanged for government stocks on nationalisation in 1947, the firm became a gilt jobber.

Mr John Woolfenden, Mouldale's senior partner, said: "I am thrilled at the link with Phillips & Drew. We have been primarily dealing with country brokers and their institutional clients."

To give an estimate of his firm's current capacity, Mr Woolfenden said they would make a market in between £250,000 and £500,000 of 13 per cent Treasury 2000, known colloquially as "Grecks". The biggest London jobbers would be able to deal in block of up to £5 million in the same stock.

The deal is yet another to be put together by Phoenix Securities, the specialist merchant bank which has acquired a number of firms, including market makers in the past year or so. It is understood that the firm has another half-dozen clients on its books who are waiting to conclude similar deals.

Shell in £435m bid for control of big Australian gasfield

By Jonathan Davis, Business Correspondent

Shell and BHP, Australia's largest industrial holding company, took the markets and the oil industry by surprise yesterday by announcing a takeover bid for Woodside Petroleum.

Woodside is the Australian operator of the ambitious, multi-billion dollar North West Shelf offshore gas project, one of the world's largest surviving energy developments. The bid values Woodside at \$300 million (£435 million).

BHP and Shell already own 21.3 per cent each of Woodside's equity, and also both have a one sixth interest in the key export phase of the North West Shelf project. They said

yesterday that they had made their cash offer for the outstanding majority shareholding in Woodside in order to guarantee the future of the North West Shelf development, which was otherwise in danger of missing its production deadlines.

As part of the takeover plan, the two companies are proposing to put two additional directors on the Woodside board, and as they will follow it up with a \$300 million takeover, they will also

Woodside rights issue to which they will subscribe. If successful, their bid will take their interest in the most important second phase of the North West Shelf development - the export

of huge quantities of liquefied natural gas to the Japanese market from 1985 to 25 per cent each.

News of the bid helped to send Australian stock markets to record high levels. Woodside's shares jumped 40 cents to \$1.56, compared with the Shell and BHP offer terms of \$1.60 a share. The Australian Government put out a statement saying it supported the rationale for the deal.

The directors of Woodside, however, advised shareholders not to sell their shares in the market, and said they intended to challenge some of the key statements

New Gatt talks expected

Trade, finance and foreign ministers of the 24 member nations of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development - the club of industrial economies - gather in Paris today for their spring discussion of economic issues. Writes our Economic Editor:

The main outcome of this meeting is expected to be general endorsement of the need to launch a further round of trade negotiations under the

suspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. The OECD gathering is the only meeting to involve all industrial governments. It precedes the meeting next week of the Interim Committee of the International Monetary Fund and the Development Committee of the World Bank, which consist of a selection of finance ministers of developed and developing nations.

The seven heads of government of the biggest industrial market economies - the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada - then meet for their annual economic summit in Bonn at the beginning of next month.

The OECD meetings are taking place under the shadow of a dispute over trade restrictions between Japan and the United States.

Spectrum fears loss after discount war

By Jeremy Warner

Spectrum Group, the computer and photographic equipment distributor, has been badly hit by the problems of the home micro industry less than a year after making a sparkling debut on the Unlisted Securities Market.

The company's shares plunged 25p yesterday to 50p after the group conceded that interim results due on April 24 might show an overall trading loss for the half-year to the end of December.

The shares were floated last June by Barclays Merchant Bank at 130p and in the preceding year the group had made £1.7 million in pretax profits.

Mr Michael Stern, the chairman, said the company was still assessing the problems with its auditors, Touche Ross, but a loss was possible for the half-year because of heavy home computer price discounting and the need to contend with "an

inordinately high level of returned defective product". Spectrum services more than 160 retail outlets with the top 10 best-selling home micros and it has been harder hit than most by faulty products.

A survey by Business Decisions on behalf of Acorn's advertising agency, Aspect Advertising, found that more than a quarter of Sinclair Spectrums were returned to retailers.

The next best-selling micro, the Commodore 64, fared little better at 13 per cent.

Mr Thorn EMI has acquired SMB Computers, a Mansfield computer software development and marketing company for £400,000.

Mr Godfrey Chandler has relinquished his position as non-executive chairman of Business Computer Systems and Mr Ray Newman has come in as part-time executive chairman.

Australia licence for UK banks 'by June'

By Sarah Hogg, Economics Editor

Four British banks will get the final go-ahead to compete in Australia by June, according to government sources.

Three of the four big British clearing banks, National Westminster, Barclays and Lloyds (through a local subsidiary) - together with a joint venture involving Standard Chartered - were among 16 foreign applicants out of 42 selected for licensing procedures.

Mr Paul Kenting, the Australian finance minister, who is in Europe for meetings of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, indicated yesterday that discussions would be concluded before midsummer.

Financial deregulation in Australia has coincided with an upheaval in monetary policy that has created some unease in financial markets. Although the Australian dollar was steadier yesterday, increases in interest rates (the rate of 90 day bills is over 16 per cent and prime lending rates 16-16½ per cent) it closed in the Far East at US\$0.6650, a further fall against the American currency.

Since the end of last year, the Australian dollar's all-round depreciation has amounted to roughly 15 per cent. The Australian government's view, however, is that Australia's economic fundamentals are

in good shape. After real growth in output of 6.5 per cent in the 1983-84 fiscal year (running to June), the government is expecting 4 per cent this year.

Unemployment has fallen from 10.4 per cent in September, 1983, to 8.3 per cent today, on a seasonally-adjusted basis, and the government is on track for its target of an increase of 500,000 in employment in the three years to 1986.

Although Australia is currently running a deficit on the current account of its balance of payments equivalent to about 4½ per cent of national output, the government's view is that part of this is cyclical (reflecting recent rapid growth) and that the gap will be narrowed by a combination of depreciation and wage restraint, which are estimated to have restored Australian competitiveness to levels better than those prevailing in the late 1960s.

Inflows of long-term capital are estimated to support a "natural" current-account deficit of about 2½ per cent of gdp, for a country at Australia's level of economic development.

However, some unease about political prospects in general have recently combined with uncertainty in financial markets to undermine the currency. The government has suspended formal monetary targets.

Oil producers resist BNOC cut

Rotterdam (Reuters) - Lower North Sea oil prices proposed by the British National Oil Corporation are being resisted by some producing companies.

The Government announced last month that BNOC was to be abolished this year, but for the time being the corporation markets more than 50 per cent of North Sea output.

Last Thursday, producing companies were told that the price they would be paid for

cargoes loading this month would be cut by \$1.15 a barrel for Brent, to \$27.50.

Producing company sources said the price cut introduced for Brent and a range of other North Sea grades brought them about \$1 a barrel below present spot for free market prices.

They reflected prices applying last month when most of the April business was done, and differentials had been adjusted

so the price reductions were uniform.

Tradessaid the new prices, were as follows: Brent \$27.50 per barrel, Forties \$27.50, Ninian \$27.55, Fulmar \$27.55, Statford \$27.80, Beryl \$27.75, Maureen \$27.68, Argyle \$27.20, Beatrice \$27, Flotta \$27.

Producing company sources said they were considering challenging BNOC's prices, a process which could lead to appeal to independent experts or even a legal hearing.

£20m profits at Smiths Industries

Smiths Industries, the industrial holdings group, has increased pretax profits from £14.6 million to £20.2 million in the 26 weeks to February 2.

Turnover rose from £178.4 million to £197.2 million. The interim dividend is raised to 1.5p from an adjusted 1.1875p.

Tempus, page 19

Expamet International, the building, industrial and security products group, has increased 1984 pretax profits to £2.3 million, up from £2.8 million. Turnover rose from £33.4 million to £41.9 million. A final dividend of 3p makes 5p for the year against 4.75p last time.

Tempus, page 19

Shares in Pearl Assurance, the life assurance and general insurer, dropped 60p yesterday to £10.93 after the company announced a £2.4 million fall in net profits to £14.5 million in 1984. Pearl suffered a pretax trading loss of £10.33 million, down from a 1983 profit of £1 million, but announced an increased dividend for the year of 38p, up from 33p.

Tempus, page 19

Redheads debt

The liquidator, Redheads Ship-repairers, Mr Len Gattoff, says that estimated statement of affairs indicates a deficiency of £300,000 for unsecured creditors of about £300,000.

IN BRIEF

Haden is accused

Trafalgar House, which has gained only meagre acceptance so far in the bid for Haden, the specialist building and engineering firm, accused Haden yesterday of giving its shareholders "vague and we fear misleading information" about its 1985 prospects.

In his latest circular, Sir Nigel Brookes, Trafalgar House chairman, said Haden's board had produced nothing to suggest that it was capable of making "a sustainable long-term recovery".

Haden's financial condition had "significantly worsened", and the company could be "overtrading on its significantly reduced asset base," Sir Nigel said. Trafalgar's bid is 240p a share.

Clyde challenge on rival offer

Clyde Petroleum's financial advisers, Singer and Friedlander, asked the Takeover Panel yesterday for clarification of Tuesday's announcement of a rival, unidentified suitor for Petrol. The news led several Petrol shareholders to withdraw their acceptances of the Clyde offer. Clyde immediately branded them a delaying tactic.

£13m town sale

The town centre of Cwmbran, South Wales, with more than 140 shops, supermarkets, car parks and flats has been sold for more than £13 million to The City and County Land Company, a subsidiary of the Ladbroke group.

The Soviet Union's commercial bank in Switzerland, one of Moscow's largest outlets for gold, said yesterday it will not publish figures for 1984, thus keeping secret details of the scandal that led to the dismissal of its chief dealer, last November. He was sacked for exceeding his trading limits.

Icahn offer

The US investor, Mr Carl Icahn, plans to launch a \$305 million hostile tender offer for a 51 per cent interest in Uniroyal, the chemical, plastic and rubber-products concern, at \$18 a share.

Thrift sackings

The president of the Cincinnati-based Home State Savings Bank, which recently collapsed, and three other top officers have been dismissed.

SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND AND LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 171st Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Society will be held at the Head Office, 15 Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh, on Tuesday, the 7th day of May 1985 at 2.30 pm for the following purposes:

To consider the accounts and balance sheets for the year ended 31st December 1984 and the Reports of the Directors and Auditors.

To elect Directors.

To appoint Auditors.

To fix the remuneration of Directors.

To pass, if thought fit, the following Resolution recommended to the Members by the Directors:

"That the remuneration of the Auditors for the current year be fixed by the Directors of the Society."

To consider and, if thought fit, pass the following Resolution which will be proposed as a Special Resolution:

"That the regulations of the Society be altered by the deletion of regulation 91 (Regulations of officers, etc., of Society) thereof and the substitution thereof of a new regulation 91 as follows:

91. - (1) Every director, local director, chief executive, secretary, treasurer, or other officer or employee for the time being of the Society, or his successor or personal representative or administrator, shall be entitled to be indemnified out of the funds of the Society against all actions, costs, charges, losses, liabilities, damages and expenses which he or his successors or personal representatives or administrators shall incur or sustain by reason or in consequence of anything done, or omitted to be done, or suffered or omitted by him or about the execution or discharge of his duties (or supposed duties), or the exercise of his powers, in his office, trust or employment or otherwise in relation to or in connection with his duties, powers, office, trust or employment (including, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, any liability incurred by him as such director, local director, chief executive, secretary, treasurer, or other officer or employee in defending any proceedings, civil or criminal, in which judgment or decree is given in his favour or in which he is acquitted or in connection with any application or proceedings in which he is relieved by the court, either wholly or partly, from his liability, except such actions, costs, charges, losses, liabilities, damages and expenses (if any) as he or his successors or personal representatives or administrators shall incur or sustain by or through his own wilful neglect or wilful default.

(2) No director, local director, chief executive, secretary, treasurer, or other officer or employee for the time being of the Society, or his successor or personal representative or administrator, shall be liable or answerable for the acts, omissions, neglects or defaults of any other director, local director, chief executive, secretary, treasurer, or other officer or employee of the Society or of any auditor or law agent, or by reason of his having joined in any receipt for money not received by him personally, nor shall he be liable or answerable for any banker, broker, collector or other person with whom or into whose hands any property or moneys of the Society shall or may be lodged or deposited or come, or for the insufficiency or deficiency of the title to, or the depreciation in the value of, any security or investment or other property which may from time to time be acquired for or on behalf of the Society or for the insufficiency or deficiency of any investment or security in or upon which any of the funds of the Society shall be placed or invested, or for any other loss, misfortune or damage whatsoever which may happen in the execution of his office, trust or employment or in relation thereto, unless the same shall happen by or through his own wilful neglect or wilful default.

To transact any other ordinary business proper to an Annual General Meeting.

Forms of Proxy for the use of Members of the Society who are unable to be present at the Meeting, but who may wish to vote, may be obtained on application to the undersigned. To be effective Proxies must reach the Society's Head Office not later than two clear working days before the time for holding the Meeting. A proxy need not be a member of the Society.

C. M. CAVAYE
Managing Director
15 Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh EH16 5BU
2 April 1985

NOTE: A copy of the Report will be sent on request to any Member who would like to have one.

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Hill Samuel

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Hopes of lower inflation lift blue chips out of the doldrums

By Derek Pain and Alison Eadie

The Prime Minister's inflation comments gave equities a short-lived boost yesterday. At the same time, the FT 30 share index was recording a 9 points gain - its best advance for nearly a month.

However, sellers then moved in and the index closed 4.4 better at 960.3 points. During the afternoon the stock market had warmed to Mrs Thatcher's statement, made during an interview in her Far Eastern tour, that she wanted to drive inflation down to 3 per cent, or lower, by the next general election.

With the money supply figures emerging in line with the revised expectations, leading shares shrugged off the gloom which has enveloped them during this three-week account and recorded some good gains.

Although finishing well below their best for the day, leading shares dragged themselves off their year's low point, as measured by the FT index, hit on Tuesday. However, prices were still falling after the index calculation.

Trading was again thin with the FT 30 constituents attracting much of the business. The more broadly based FT-SE share index was never in such good form as its rival and closed 2.9 points better at 1,273.1 points.

Government stocks ended with gains of up to 1/4, little influenced by the money supply figures which had caused such worry in recent days to some observers.

Commercial Union, the insurance group, was one of the day's most keenly followed shares. And again it attracted considerable attention in the option market. The share price closed unchanged at 215p as the market still whispered about a bid with Allianz, the West German group, Guardian Royal Exchange and General Accident the main candidates.

Among other leaders, Imperial Group, a line of 1.5 million shares was cleared on Tuesday, rose 1p to 183p. Glaxo, due to report interim results next week, advanced 15p to 109.5p. The market expects £160 million (against £117.4 million) with a year's outcome of £350 million compared with £256 million.

Tricentrol, the oil group, jumped 12p to 255p as the market continued to ponder the

Eagle Exploration, an obscure Australian oil group, rose 1 1/2p to 10 1/2p yesterday on enthusiastic talk about exploration work going on in a remote corner of North-western Australia. The structure, it is said, could hold one billion barrels of oil. But drilling has only just started and nothing has yet been found. Not a share for the faint-hearted.

intentions of Enterprise Oil which has nearly 5 per cent of the ordinary capital and 34.9 per cent of the convertible loan stock.

However, if a battle does flare for Tricentrol there could be, more than one bidder. Trafalgar House is thought to be keen on the company. And Rio Tinto-Zinc, with 29 per cent of Enterprise, and thought to be seeking a more direct oil stake, could also be tempted.

Associated Newspapers bounced 50p to 880p after the market got wind of a bullish circular about to be issued by Grieson Grant, the broker. Mr Derek Tarrington, analyst, is looking for the shares to rise to £10 soon, because he expects a profits recovery and estimates the net asset value is around £24 a share.

Traded option highlights

Commercial Union once again dominated activity on the London traded option market yesterday. Attracting 1,064 calls and 57 puts it accounted, for the second day running, for about 25 per cent of the total business transacted.

The gilts contract had a total of 377 bargains - 205 calls and 172 puts. Elsewhere the Barclays Bank May contracts moved up 10p.

This year he predicts pretax profits will rise to £45 million, more than double the £21.7 million made in 1983/4. Next year profits should rise to £58.5 million.

The asset backing is in the books at well below market value, according to the broker. The Reuters stake is under-valued in the balance sheet, oil interests are in at £40 million

The old favourite, Inter-City Investments, where Mr Asil Nadir's Polly Pack has a controlling shareholding, has jumped to life this month - up 12 1/2p to 51 1/2p - on gathering hopes that the Nadir connection is now paying off and that there will soon be news of expansion plans, probably in Hong Kong.

against a market worth nearer £90 million and the 18 per cent stake in Canadian company Consolidated Bathurst is worth closer to £100 million than the £67 million in the balance sheet.

There has been much speculation that Associated will launch its Blackfriars Oil subsidiary on the stock market. Grieson expects a float of part of the oil interests.

Other newspaper shares moved up in sympathy. Fleet Holdings, which United Newspapers wishes to bid for if the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry will give the nod, gained 3p to 279p. United Newspapers moved ahead 5p to 308p. But International Thomson went against the trend losing 3p to 504p.

Falling tea prices at the London auctions hit plantation shares and Eastern Produce fell 13p to 353p, back from a high for the year at 395p.

J Jarvis, the building contractor, added another 10p to 313p after a recent newsletter tip. The market in the shares is, however, very thin.

Electricals were generally firmer after being weak for most of the account with GEC 6p stronger at 184p, Racal up 3p to 196p, Plessey up 2p to 196p and STC up 2p to 196p.

Danfoss gained 10p to 192p on speculative demand. Energy Services added 5p to 95p on rival bid hopes. Peek Holdings launched an unsolicited bid for Energy Services last month, which values the shares at 91p and the company at £34.3 million. Energy Services itself has no idea where a rival bid might be coming from - it has had no approaches - but it continues to oppose vigorously the Peek bid.

Thorn EMI gained 7p to 401p on news that it had acquired SMB Computers, a software company in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire for £400,000. Total cash 15p to 69 1/2p, despite the issue of the defence document against Entrad's final bid. The Australian textile group Entrad is offering 72 1/2p cash per share. Total is staunchly resisting the bid and has made a "conservative" profit forecast of not less than £27 million pre-tax in 1985, an increase of 18 per cent. The Entrad's offer closes on April 18.

Burnett and Hallamshire, the mining group, ended unchanged at 45p after touching 55p. The shares dropped 22p on Tuesday on worries that its talks with its bankers were going badly.

Blue Circle Industries rose 2p to 480p after its recent weakness. Figures are due this month and there are worries that the group may make a rights issue to help pay for what many regard as an expensive US acquisition.

In a generally flat beer sector,

Scottish and Newcastle Breweries continue to buy shares in bid target, Matthew Brown, the Blackburn brewery.

Scottish now has 14.4 per cent of Brown's capital, having acquired another 120,000 Brown's shares shaded 7p to 436p.

Albert Fisher, the fruit and vegetable group created largely by Mr Tony Millar, rose 2p to 132p following news of its profits and a US acquisition. Rowe and Pitman, the broker, raised £5.2 million by placing new shares at 123p.

S. W. Farmer Group, the structural steel and platform group, had a see-saw day. The shares opened at 77p and climbed to 87p as the rumour of a buying order was completed. Then came the figures. Last year's profit of £539,000 had been turned into a £1,526,000 loss and the final dividend omitted making only 3.1p for the year against 9.75p. The shares promptly slumped to 78p.

Evede rose 7p to 119p on speculation that Beecham might be launching a bid for the company.

Spectrum plummeted 25p to 50p after the group announced it may make a loss in the half year to the end of December. Results are due out in two weeks time.

Born-again Smiths Industries

The transformation of Smiths Industries from the ugly duckling in the world of automotive products into one which swims with the white swan industrial holding companies has been achieved with considerable skill.

Shareholders have hardly noticed the transition in terms of profit performance or balance sheet strength and the company is now ideally placed to move ahead strongly from a much more solid base than could have been envisaged a few years ago.

Yesterday's interim profits demonstrated just how streamlined Smiths is. Pretax profits rose from £14.6 million to £20.2 million, and yet it was hard to put a finger on where the improvement came from. Many companies use the phrase "across-the-board increases" these days but few can do so with such justification as Smiths.

All divisions did better than a year ago and you are forced to dig as deep as the relatively insignificant South African operations to find even a hint of disappointment.

The company is reluctant to point to any one division as a particularly impressive performer, but it is hard to ignore the industrial operations. So often overshadowed by the more exotic aerospace and medical interests, the industrial divisions showed the best improvement in the first half.

This division certainly ben-

efited from the acquisitions during the year, but this should not detract from what is essentially a very solid performance.

There was also a benefit from the dollar's strength. Currency translation added £1.7 million to the group's profit but perhaps more important was the trading advantage which many of the operating companies obtained from a cheaper pound, particularly on the medical side.

Having achieved its remarkable change in direction, Smiths cannot afford to rest on its laurels too long. Certainly, there was nobody in the City yesterday who could find too much fault with the company at the moment. However, this support cannot be guaranteed indefinitely.

The process of transition has been rightly praised but Smiths now regards itself as an industrial holding company and the market is beginning to rate it accordingly.

The balance sheet is now sufficiently strong to allow the company to make a substantial acquisition in almost any field. The medical and industrial divisions offer the most flexible opportunities but aerospace cannot be ruled out. Although Smiths will not want to feel pressurized by the City, that acquisition must come sooner rather than later.

The profits improvements which have been witnessed in recent years cannot be sus-

tained by organic growth alone and it would be a shame if Smiths's management expertise was allowed to work its magic on takeover opportunities.

The shares closed up 15p at 206p. Any short-term excitement will be governed by announcements on takeovers or possibly a South African disposal, but on a long-term view the shares will not disappoint.

Pearl Assurance

Pearl Assurance's reputation for producing steady but regular profit increases year after year received a knock yesterday, and the stock market did not like it. Announcing its 1984 results, the company reported a net profit well below expectations, of £14.55 million compared with £16.79 million the year before.

After marking Pearl's shares up 10p in the morning to £11.53 the market showed its disappointment by sending the price down 60p to £10.93 on the results. That takes it perilously close to the £10 barrier which Pearl broke through only in January.

This treatment may look somewhat harsh, since much of Pearl's poor performance appears to be due to one-off events. The group suffered a pretax trading loss of £10.33 million, compared with a £1.05 profit in 1983, but the main

contributor to the fall was Monarch, the US subsidiary. The company made a £4.5 million trading loss after further reserving was felt necessary. Pearl traditionally takes a very conservative approach to reserving.

There was also a £2.07 million loss from Community Reinsurance, with which Pearl is associated but which ceased writing business last year. The losses will disappear as Community's portfolio is run off.

Pearl did not avoid a sharp rise in general business underwriting losses from £9.06 million to £20.35 million. But on the brighter side, it continued to grow steadily. Long-term business premiums grew from £263 million to £298 million while short-term business premiums grew by more than £10 million to £95.8 million.

Pearl's final net profit figure was achieved after a tax credit worth £4 million and £16 million of the shareholders' proportion of a long-term business surplus of £167 million. In the event, the company decided to pay shareholders a dividend for the year of 38p, up 33p from the previous year.

Expamet International

Expamet International has long been trying to shed its rather untrendy image of a company

dominated by expanding metals and largely reliant on the building and construction industry for its well-being.

A new name and change of management has worked wonders and although some of the traditional interests still provide a solid core for the business, there are now signs that it is emerging into sectors which are more accustomed to growth than maturity.

Yesterday's pretax profits of £3.3 million, up from £2.8 million, were ahead of some expectations and driven by a good performance from the industrial division.

Perhaps more important, however, was the coming of age of the security division. Profits are still small here but with the acquisition of APT Controls, the group now has strength in depth to expand the division further and over the next few years it will provide Expamet with substantial growth opportunities.

The balance sheet has suffered slightly as a consequence of the takeover, but gearing is still at a very comfortable level and the cash generating abilities of most of the group's businesses will allow borrowings to be reduced quite steadily.

The shares closed up 4p at 109p where they are fairly valued but still offer the chance of steady growth.

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Assembled for the RAF at our Warton

plant, the Tornado represents just one facet of British Aerospace's work.

British Aerospace is one of Britain's largest exporters of manufactured goods. Last year over 60% of the company's total sales were to overseas customers.

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Our commitment to the future

shows itself constantly in innovative design, backed by advanced production techniques and research facilities. All to ensure that we remain in the forefront of aviation, electronics, space and weapons systems technology.

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Please send me in due course a Prospectus including an application form.

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COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

● Convent conversion ● Superstore application

Only 10 out of 10 will do for high-tech tenants

By Judith Huntley

The Thames Valley is one of the most sought after locations for property, and has been so for some years.

Within that area so-called "high tech" property has been hitting the headlines, leaving less glamorous developments such as the traditional industrial sheds behind.

The reasons for this are many, but there is no denying that electronics companies lead the market in their demand for high quality flexible buildings, often a hybrid of office and production space.

Campbell Gordon, the Reading-based estate agent well versed in this market, has produced a report on demand in the Thames Valley.

It concludes that 559 companies were last year looking for 18.79 million sq ft of space in the area which stretches along the M4 in central Berkshire, taking in Reading, Wokingham and Bracknell.

The Campbell Gordon survey shows that almost half the reported demand is for high tech property - what Mr Ian

Campbell, the senior partner, describes as "look-alike offices on the cheap." He could be right. Companies wanting good quality space with production or assembly facilities are going to be attracted to buildings which cost £8 a sq ft compared with centrally-located offices at £12 or more a sq ft.

But Mr Campbell has words of warning about the high tech sector of the market. "High tech is a very demanding examination paper where you need to score 10 out of 10. Eight out of 10 will not do."

He means that developing buildings with that label is not enough. Demand is there for the right buildings in the right locations but expectations about soaring rental growth should not be taken for granted. Campbell Gordon's survey shows that there is a continuing demand for conventional industrial space, certainly not in favour with developers or investors at the moment.

Developers with an eye to the future may find it advisable to build better quality "sheds" in

the Thames Valley. The problem is that land prices are soaring. Sites are bought on the assumption that high tech development will go there with rents well above those for normal industrial space. Competing for land at inflated prices makes industrial or warehouse development a non-starter.

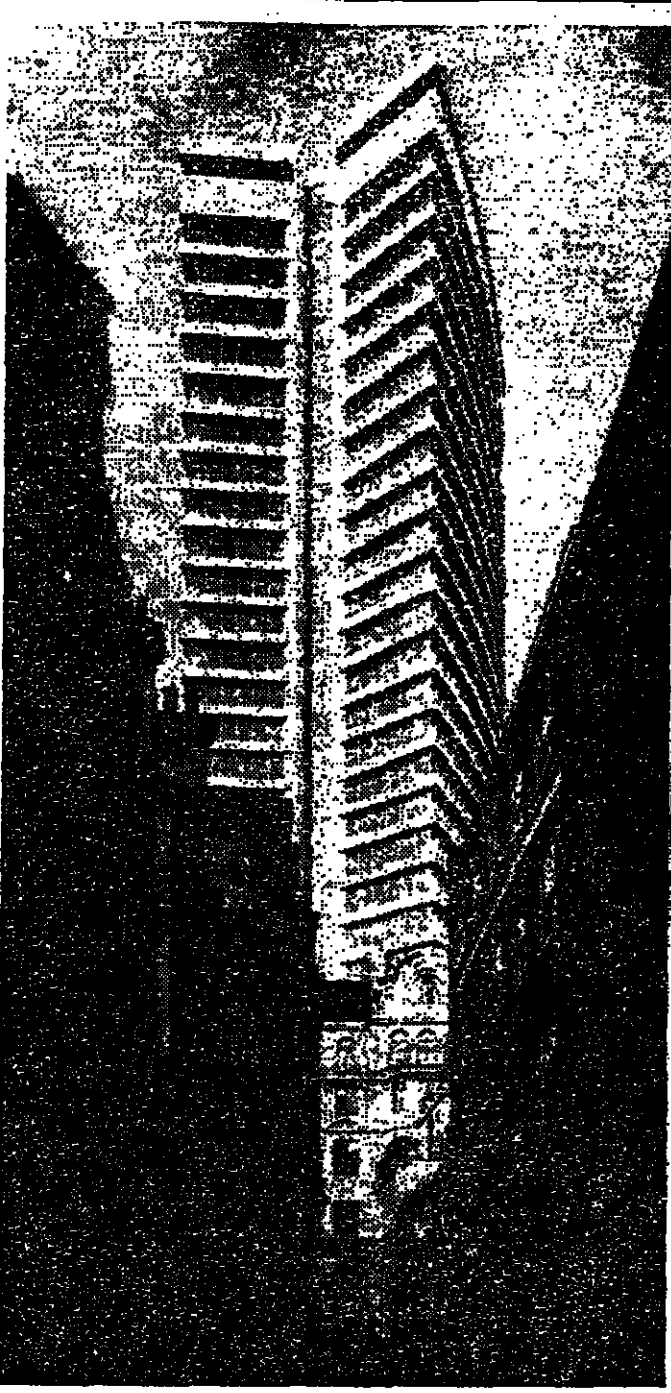
Companies looking for space along the M4 were mostly in electronics engineering. This sector accounted for 32 per cent of the industrial and 43 per cent of the office enquiries. And they wanted large buildings. More than half the demand for 50,000 sq ft or more of space came from this area of the market.

While not disputing the number of enquiries in the Thames Valley, Campbell Gordon gives a warning that a large percentage of companies looking for space do not move. It is not able to quantify this percentage, but it says that the reasons for staying put boil down to "inadequate gains".

The costs of moving are high and can more than offset the desire for better space or buildings which give a high profile corporate image. And there is the potential problem of disposing of existing space.

Next year's report should indicate how many of these enquiries were translated into deals. Frenzied activity encourages developers and investors but in the end it is signing on the dotted line which counts.

The property market is trying to deal with a highly volatile market with a product which has traditionally been regarded as a long-term stable investment. Those days may have gone for ever.



Fresh faces for Drapers Gardens in the City

Airport site plan revised

The Carroll Group has put in a new application for a £125 million business park and related development on the site of Hum Airport, near Bournemouth, Dorset. This comes four years after the Carroll Group's announcement of its plans for the site in conjunction with the Hum Airport Development Committee, made up of representatives from councils in Dorset and Bournemouth.

The new scheme has less retailing, reduced from 100,000 sq ft to 70,000 sq ft and less

housing, down to 175 homes from 400.

The company wants permission for 1.5 million sq ft of industrial and warehouse space with a high office content and 300,000 sq ft of offices. Its plans include a 150-bed hotel, championship golf course and sports and leisure facilities.

The Carroll Group says it has "adequate capital available within its existing resources" to fund the project, but it would not comment on what bank borrowings would be required or how these would be secured.

Developer aims to diversify

London & Provincial Shop Centres, the company that said it "invented" Slough, and a highly attractive takeover prospect, wants to venture away from its traditional stamping ground. The company has often been accused of having too many eggs in one basket, with 90 per cent of its portfolio concentrated in Slough, Berkshire, and it realizes that development elsewhere is a necessity.

It would like to develop a shopping centre and is looking for the chance to do so, after narrowly missing a scheme in Ipswich, Suffolk, now being undertaken by Boskalis Keys.

The company needs more liquidity to diversify, and it wants to reduce borrowings at high rates of interest. It will probably achieve this by selling its stake in Cornwall House, its 33.55 sq ft office building recently let to Data General, the US company, at £16.16 a sq ft. Its share is worth about £8 million. The rest of the building is owned by Kleinwort Benson. London & Provincial could raise £12 million this year for new developments and for refurbishing some of its older buildings.

A number of the 1960s developments in the portfolio need to be upgraded if they are to approach the quality of Cornwall House. A favourite for this must be the 70,000 sq ft Key West block in Windsor Road.

The lease is assigned to Rank Xerox, which has never occupied the offices and is moving soon to purpose-built headquarters in Marlow, Buckinghamshire. It is understood that talks are under way over the reassignment of Rank's lease on Key West.

London & Provincial's directors, Mr Bernard Berrick and Mr Ronald Gerrard, admit to receiving several bid offers, but at the moment say they are not keen on selling.

They control the company along with family and other interests, including the Legal & General, so that any potential takeover would have to be agreed before it could proceed. If the price were right, they might be tempted to accept an offer, but maintain they are not looking to relinquish control just yet.

Acquisitions prompt County Bank move

County Bank's decision to move into Drapers Gardens, already leased to its parent, National Westminster Bank, takes a potential tenant for one of the new large City buildings, off the market.

County Bank is due to move next year into 105,000 sq ft of space in Drapers Gardens, an early 1960s building in Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2. The need for more space is precipitated by the bank's acquisition of Bispod Bishop, the jobber and Fielding Newton-Smith, the stockbroker.

It seems no decision has been made about the future of 11 Old Broad Street the existing offices of County Bank, also owned by NatWest.

Town & City Properties, now part of the P & O Group, has bought a four-acre site with permission for 150,000 sq ft of retailing in the centre of Ashford, Kent, for more than £5 million.

Abeyon Properties, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Charter Consolidated, assembled the site and Town & City has bought it on condition that the planning consent was modified and a road closure order was agreed. Those conditions have been met and the deal has gone through.

The sale included the freehold of the existing J Sainsbury supermarket and a multi-storey car park above. Sainsbury will extend its floorspace to 44,000 sq ft. Town & City was advised by Hillier Parker which is joint letting agent with Healey & Baker.

Stock Conversion and Investment Trust is investing £2 million in buying and restoring a listed building in Burnham, Buckinghamshire, for 15,000 sq ft of high quality offices set in 35 acres. The company has bought Britwell Court from New England Properties for £650,000 but intends to spend a large sum on converting the building, which was a convent, but is now empty. Stock Conversion intends trading the scheme once let or it will sell to an overseas buyer.

Taylor Woodrow Chippindale Properties, the company set up by Taylor Woodrow Developments and Mr Sam Chippindale, the shopping developer, has completed the Cascades

development in the centre of Rotherham, South Yorkshire. The company has a long lease on the site, owned by Rotherham council. The two will be put together to sell the scheme in about a year.

The Cascades totals about 85,000 sq ft of retailing and cost £4.5 million to develop. All units except one are let, with Mothercare, Dixons and Superdrug among the tenants. An urban development grant of £500,000 was needed to implement the project.

A further 9,000 sq ft of retail space is being developed next to the Cascades with both units let. The total retail roll from the two schemes will be £450,000 a year, in line with forecasts.

The letting agent was Lawson Hubbard, of Leeds.

Tesco has bought a site at Park Western, Ealing, in west London, for a 65,000 sq ft superstore with parking for 650 cars. The supermarket operator is to put in a planning application for the scheme.

The site has been bought from Unigate and Park Western Developments, the property area of Metal Box. Park Western was established in 1982 when both partners combined to develop an £80 million industrial and office complex on their adjoining sites totalling 33 acres. But progress has been slow.

The Tesco purchase will boost development on the site as will the sale of 45,000 sq ft to the BBC and the potential sale of another slice of the project to a film studio.

The final 10 acres of the site are being marketed for occupiers wanting 30,000 sq ft to 80,000 sq ft units. Dron & Wright is the letting agent with Jones Lang Wootton and IDC Property Investments has been appointed project managers. Metal Box has also sold the adjoining residential site to Groveside Homes for 12 houses for £480,000.

Prudential Assurance's building at 49 Pall Mall in the West End of London has two floors let at £18.50 a sq ft. Personal Financial Consultants has taken 2,035 sq ft on the first floor with the second floor of 3,300 sq ft let to Petrolon. Conway Relf Stanton and Savills are the letting agents.

COMPANY NEWS

JOHNSTON GROUP: Final 5.00p (4.50p) making 7.00p (6.50p) for 1984. Payable on July 5. (Figures in £000.) Turnover 58,376 (60,191). Profit 4,461 (5,903). Tax 982 (2,709). Profit attributable 3,227 (3,194). Earnings per share 31.26p (30.94p). Net assets value 257.0p (208.8p).

NATIONWIDE LEISURE: A new venture brings in Nationwide's subsidiary, the Alpine Sports and the retailing interests of Captain O M Wals in "shop in shop" trading this summer. Alpine Sports will incorporate a full

Captain Wals chandlery and selling clothing shop into its Kensington High Street (London) main branch for six months from April 11.

STANLEY MILLER: No div. (1984). (Figures in £000.) Turnover 18,599 (19,973). Operating loss 272 (profit 55). Assets loss 177 (profit 279). Pre-tax loss 449 (334). Tax nil (182). Loss after (profit 152). Loss per share 7.48p (earnings 2.56p).

SOUTHERN GOLDFIELDS has been off an attempt by Consolidated Gold Mining Areas to elect three new members to the

board. A five-hour meeting of shareholders in Perth, Australia, backed the existing board, returning a retiring director and dismissing the CGMA challenge, which could have delivered it control of the board.

GENERAL FUNDS INVESTMENT TRUST: The trust's shares to be subdivided so that for every ordinary share of 25p each shareholder would have five ordinary shares of 5p each and for every convertible ordinary share of 10p shareholders would have five convertible ordinary of 2p.

European Law Report

Court of Justice of the European Communities

Commission failed to disclose relevant information

Timex Corporation and Others v Council and Commission of the European Communities

Case 264/83
Before Lord Mackenzie Stuart, President and Judges G. Bosco, O. Due, C. Kakouris, T. Koopmans, U. Everling, K. Bahlmann, Y. Galmot and R. Joliet
Advocate General: M. Darmon
[Judgments delivered March 20]

The Commission's failure to disclose certain non-confidential information to the complainant in anti-dumping proceedings was an infringement of an essential procedural requirement which rendered the regulation subsequently adopted void.

Article 1 of Council Regulation 182/82 of July 12, 1982 imposed a definitive anti-dumping duty on mechanical wrist-watches originating in the Soviet Union. The rate of duty, equal to the dumping margin found, was 12.6 per cent for watches without gold-plating or with gold-plating of a thickness not exceeding five microns and 26.4 per cent for watches with gold-plating of a thickness exceeding five microns.

However, no anti-dumping duty, provisional or definitive, was imposed on the movements of such watches.

That regulation was based on Council Regulation (EEC) 3017/79 of December 20, 1979 which determined the circumstances in which an anti-dumping duty might be imposed. It defined, *inter alia*, the concept of dumping and injury and also laid down rules of procedure concerning the lodging of complaints, the initiation and conduct of investigations, confidentiality and the termination of proceedings.

The applicant was the leading manufacturer of mechanical watches and watch movements in the Community and the only manufacturer of products in the United Kingdom. It contended that Regulation 182/82 was adopted in breach of the substantive and procedural rules laid down in the parent Regulation 3017/79, and in the EEC Treaty in so far as the rate of anti-dumping duty imposed on the watches in question was insufficient and no anti-dumping duty was imposed on the movements of such watches.

In its judgment the Court of Justice of the European Communities held as follows:

It was necessary to examine the submission alleging a breach of article 7 (4) (A) of Regulation 3017/79 which provided that "the Commission... may inspect all information made available to the Commission by any party to an investigation... provided that it is relevant to the defence of [its] interests and not confidential".

Timex complained that the Commission refused to supply it with certain information gathered from Hong Kong undertakings which had been selected as reference undertakings, thereby preventing it from verifying whether the watch cases and dials originating in Hong Kong were comparable to the equivalent Soviet products.

The defendant institutions admitted that no such information was supplied to Timex. However, they maintained that article 7 (4) (A) allowed access only to information provided by a "party to an investigation" which specifically excluded undertakings of a non-member country. They further maintained that since such information was confidential within the meaning of article 8 of Regulation 3017/79 it could not be disclosed.

The aim of article 7 (4) (A) of Regulation 3017/79 was to ensure that the traders or manufacturers concerned might inspect the information gathered by the Commission during the investigation so that they might effectively put forward their point of view. However, the protection of rights guaranteed by that provision had where necessary to be reconciled with the principle of confidentiality, which was given general recognition in article 214 of the EEC Treaty, and which was specifically provided for in article 8 of Regulation 3017/79.

It followed from those considerations that the argument advanced by the defendant institutions, based on the origin of the information gathered, could not be accepted. The expression "any party to an investigation" had to be interpreted as meaning not only the parties which were the subject of the investigation but also the parties whose information had been used, as in this case, to calculate the

normal value of the relevant products, since such information was just as relevant to the defence of the complainant's interests as the information supplied by the undertakings carrying out the dumping.

Consequently, all non-confidential information which had been used by the Commission during its investigation and which had a decisive influence on its decision regarding the anti-dumping duty had to be made available to the complainant requesting it.

It followed that in the present case the Commission ought to have made every effort, as far as was compatible with the obligation to disclose business secrets, to provide the applicant with information relevant to the defence of its interests, choosing, if necessary on its own initiative, the appropriate means of providing such information. More disclosure of the items referred to in the calculation of the normal value without any figures did not satisfy those imperative requirements.

Since the anti-dumping duty was therefore imposed in breach of the essential procedural requirements laid down in article 7 (4) (A) of Regulation 3017/79, article 1 of Regulation 182/82, must be declared void. It was not necessary to consider other submissions by the applicant.

However, the aim of the action was not to have the provision in question declared void but to have it modified by a more stringent measure fixing a higher anti-dumping duty on mechanical watches and imposing such a duty on mechanical watch movements. The anti-dumping duty imposed by the provision declared void should therefore be maintained, in accordance with the second paragraph of article 174 of the EEC Treaty, until the competent institutions adopted the measures needed to comply with this judgment.

On those grounds, the court:
1 Declared void article 1 of Council Regulation 182/82 of 12 July 1982;
2 Ordered the anti-dumping duty imposed by that provision to be maintained until the competent institutions adopted the measures needed to comply with this judgment.

Residence qualification for state allowance wrong

Hoeckx v Openbaar Centrum voor Maatschappelijk Welzijn Case 249/83

Scrivner and Another v Centre Public d'Aide Sociale de Chastre Case 122/84

Before Judge O. Due, President of the Second Chamber, and Judges P. Pescatore, Advocate General M. Darmon.
[Judgments delivered March 27]

The provision of the minimum means of subsistence by a member state constituted a social advantage which had therefore to be granted to nationals of other member states on the same terms as it was granted to nationals of the member state concerned.

Mrs Hoeckx, of Dutch nationality, resided and drew unemployment benefit in Belgium until June 1981 when she moved to France.

On returning to Belgium in early 1982 she applied for and was granted the minimum subsistence allowance (*Minimex*). Having again moved to France in 1982 and returned to Belgium in 1983 she applied again for the *Minimex*. That application was rejected by the defendant on the ground that she had not actually lived in Belgium for at least five years prior to the date of the award of the allowance.

Mrs Hoeckx brought an action against that decision in the Arbeidsrechtbank (Labour Court), Antwerp, which referred the matter to the Court of Justice of the European Communities for a preliminary ruling.

Mrs and Mr Scrivner, both of British nationality, settled in Belgium during 1978 with their six children. Having given up any employment in 1982 Mrs Scrivner subsequently applied for financial assistance to the Centre Public d'Aide Sociale (public social welfare centre) in Chastre. In January 1983 the centre refused to grant her financial assistance on the ground that she had not actually lived in Belgium for at least five years prior to her request.

They subsequently made the *Minimex* available to him with effect from June 14, 1983 on the basis that he had accumulated five years' residence in Belgium by that date.

Mr and Mrs Scrivner brought an action before the Tribunal de Travail (Labour Court), Nivelles, against the earlier decision, claiming that they should have been granted the *Minimex* with effect from December 10, 1982. They argued that the residence requirement was illegal as constituting discrimination on the ground of nationality prohibited by the EEC Treaty and specifically by article 7 (2) of Council Regulation No 1612/68.

Having had regard to the questions submitted by the *Arbeidsrechtbank*, Antwerp, in Mrs Hoeckx's case, the tribunal stayed the proceedings and referred the matter to the court for a preliminary ruling.

In its judgments the court held as follows:
Article 4 (1) of Council Regulation No 1408/71 applied to all legislation of member states concerning the branches of social security, listed therein while paragraph (4) of that regulation, *inter alia*, "social and medical assistance" from the field of application of the regulation.

That list was exhaustive and consequently Regulation No 1408/71 did not apply to a branch of social security which was not mentioned there, even if it conferred on recipients a legally defined status which gave the right to a benefit.

The *Minimex* both conferred upon recipients a legally defined status and was granted to any person whose means were inadequate with need being the essential criterion for application. It followed that an allowance such as *Minimex*, being a social security benefit of a general nature did not possess the characteristics of a social security benefit within the meaning of article 4 (1) of Regulation No 1408/71.

As the court had repeatedly observed, the "social advantages"

referred to in article 7 (2) of Council Regulation No 1612/68 on freedom of movement for workers within the Community, included all those which, whether or not they were in connection with a contract of employment, were generally granted to workers who were nationals of the member state concerned, by reason of the simple fact of their residence within national territory.

It followed that an allowance which guaranteed a minimum means of subsistence constituted a social advantage within the meaning of Council Regulation No 1612/68 which could not be denied to a migrant worker or members of his family who were nationals of another member state resident within the territory of the granting state.

The rule of non-discrimination was the fundamental principle of free movement. A residence requirement constituted an additional condition required of workers who were nationals of a member state but not of national workers. It therefore amounted to a patent discrimination on the basis of nationality of the workers concerned.

On those grounds the Second Chamber held:

1 A social security benefit which provided a general guarantee of the minimum means of subsistence, such as the Belgian *Minimex*, was not a matter which fell within the scope of article 4 (1) and (2) of Council Regulation No 1408/71.

2 A social security benefit which provided a general guarantee of the minimum means of subsistence constituted a social advantage within the meaning of Council Regulation No 1612/68.

3 Article 7 (2) of that regulation had to be interpreted as meaning that such a social advantage might not be subject to the condition of having actually resided within the territory of a member state for a certain period where no such obligation was imposed on the nationals of that member state.

Telex forwarding restrictions are in breach of EEC Treaty

Italy v Commission Case 41/83

Before Lord Mackenzie Stuart, President and Judges G. Bosco, O. Due, C. Kakouris, T. Koopmans, U. Everling, K. Bahlmann, Y. Galmot and R. Joliet
Advocate General: M. Darmon
[Judgments delivered March 20]

The adoption by British Telecom of a statutory scheme governing the retransmission of telex messages formed part of BT's entrepreneurial activity which had to be exercised in conformity with article 86 of the EEC Treaty.

Pursuant to a recommendation of the International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee, BT set out to restrict the activities of private message forwarding agencies whose business was to receive and retransmit messages originating, and for delivery outside the UK, thus taking advantage of tariffs which were lower in the UK than from some other European countries.

Pursuant to its statutory rule had sent directly. Subsequently a further scheme was adopted which, *inter alia*, prohibited agencies from forwarding messages in transit between places outside the United Kingdom.

By decision 82/86/EEC of December 16, 1982 the Commission declared that the scheme constituted infringements of article 86 of the EEC Treaty and required BT to bring those infringements to an end. Italy brought an action seeking

the annulment of that decision on the grounds, *inter alia*, that article 86 was not applicable to the BT schemes in question, that the BT schemes constituted a reasonable and necessary means of defence against a form of unfair competition and that the decision included an incorrect or inadequate statement of the reasons upon which it was based.

The United Kingdom intervened in the case in support of the Commission.

In its judgment the Court of Justice of the European Communities held as follows:

The applicant did not dispute that BT's activity did amount to an entrepreneurial activity which, as such, was subject to the obligations of article 86. Furthermore BT's statutory power to adopt regulations was strictly limited to provisions whose purpose was to fix the scale of charges and other conditions for the services which it provided to users.

In those circumstances the rules dealt with in the disputed decision had to be regarded as an integral part of BT's entrepreneurial activity and the argument that the Commission was not entitled to assess their compatibility with article 86 had to be rejected.

No abusive use of the telecommunications network by the agencies was established and the use of new technology which allowed very rapid transmission of messages could not be regarded as constituting an abuse. The contention that the schemes were justified by reason of abuses by message forwarding agencies was therefore rejected.

According to the applicant, the International Telecommunication Convention (ITC) prohibited national authorities from allowing diversion of international telecom-

munications traffic where such diversion was accomplished by private message forwarding agencies with a view to obtaining the full charges due for the complete message and that according to article 234 of the EEC Treaty such obligations took precedence over the provisions of Community law.

The Commission stated that article 234 was not applicable since the ITC was revised after the accession of the United Kingdom to the communities.

It was sufficient to point out that the purpose of the international provisions was not the same as that of the BT schemes prohibited by the Commission. The terms of the ITC recommendations upon which was based showed that its sole purpose was to restrict the activity of message forwarding agencies which were "constituted" or "known to be organized" for that purpose, ensuring the full charges due for the complete route.

The measures envisaged by those provisions therefore related only to agencies which, by means of abusive practices sought to enable certain messages to avoid full payment of charges due.

The BT schemes therefore had a different objective from that pursued by the telegraph regulations and were aimed at private message forwarding agencies whose activity was not abusive. The argument that the ITC and its subsidiary rules imposed an obligation on BT to adopt the disputed schemes was therefore rejected.

The court also rejected the contention that the statement of the reasons for the commission's decision was inadequate.

On those grounds, the court dismissed the application.

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BOXING

Hagler's ego takes a blow

From Srikumar Sen
Boxing Correspondent
Las Vegas

Marvin Hagler, the world middleweight champion, has only once had to go the distance in his 10 title defenses. It is showing signs of losing some of the awesome psychological advantage that has made him the most feared fighter in the world. He meets Thomas Hearns, the world light-middleweight champion from Detroit, here on Monday, and for the first time he is not favourite to retain his title. At present the betting is even money on the champion and challenger, which is an improvement for Hagler. A few days ago he was the underdog.

How this will affect Hagler on the night only he knows, but yesterday he was at pains to talk away the bookmakers' aberrations in lengthy interviews with the press. This, for a man who has never had to sell himself in all his defenses, is taken by the opposition camp to signify his unease.

Immediately after the meeting he went to the gym in downtown Las Vegas and continued winding-down his preparation, behind closed doors. Hearns, on the other hand, claimed in his conference that he had little need to press the case, already cogently made by the bookmakers.

As Emanuel Steward, Hearns's manager, said, "When Marvin starts at even money, he has got to be psychologically edged".

While the Hearns camp keep the pressure on the bookmakers and on the champion, with three-round victory predictions, the champion remains cautious. "It all depends on the way Thomas Hearns fights," he said. "I will take a variety of punches to stop him, but I will give the one to put him to sleep. I am not saying when, as I am not saying when, as I am not saying when."

In the next breath the champion was back-peddaling. "If it goes the distance, I will get a fight," he said. "If he beats me, I guarantee he will know he has been in a fight."

In spite of his fearsome appearance in the ring, Hagler is a soft and personable character. As he said, perhaps a little too retrospectively, of his career and his poor background before he moved from



Hagler: edgy

New Jersey to Boston, his red hat with the word WAR on it seemed to sit awkwardly on his head.

"When I am not fighting, I like to be a good human being," he said. "Today I am everything I wanted to be as a kid. Boxing has got me a nice woman, nice children, a nice car, nice clothes, and a nice place to live. Boxing has been my education."

"I want to be the greatest middleweight champion of all time. This will be my eleventh defence, and I'm going to beat Carlos Monzon's record of 14 next year. I want the world to remember my face, my name and my division."

Hagler admitted there would never be another contest like this one for him. All 15,128 tickets, ranging from \$100 to \$6000, have gone. The MGM Grand has erected a 30,000-seat stadium and still people would have been hammering on their doors.

The president of Caesar's, Donald Allison, said, "This fight is for fight fans and in a 30,000-seat stadium people sitting in the top row would be quite away from the ring."

Caesar's will be taking \$6 million in gate money alone, but Mr Allison said: "We won't make money on the gate. It's going to cost us to have the fight." Where the hotel will cash in, of course, is in their vast gaming rooms, where their gambling machines keep up a background noise like crackles in a forest. The hotel's top-line customers have accounted for one-third of the seats.

"How to handle the high rollers is a problem," Mr Allison added. "The pecking order changes when everyone shows up."

Accommodation in this gambling town has been tight for the average fan and anyone arriving on an express train from the edge of town with a view of car washes, petrol stations, a cheap casino or two and a conglomerate of buildings that make Heston Services on the M4 look like the Hilton in Park Lane.

The only high rollers will be the jiggers on the freeway.

YACHTING

Rating officer's resignation rocks the boat

By John Nicholls

The chequered history of the Royal Ocean Racing Club's rating officer seems to be no nearer a long-term solution with the announcement that Mal MacDougall, the rating secretary, has relinquished his post for "personal reasons". He is leaving at very short notice, after serving since 1962.

His predecessor, Keith Ludlow, served for five years and also left in a discreet manner, following the victory of Burnham rating scandal in 1981, for which he was never held to be responsible. After winning man races a protest was made against the victory and it was discovered that his original rating had been incorrect.

MacDougall's problem is with the direction of the computer programming for producing the ratings, on which the handicaps for racing yachts are based. He has twice been instructed to change the system and with third parties involved, in addition to his office and the RORC committee, a certain amount of confusion and delay in issuing new certificates for this season has arisen. He is to be succeeded by Anthony Asmead.

GOLF: APRIL IN AUGUSTA IS WHEN AN OLD MASTER BURSTS INTO BLOOM AGAIN

Watson remains flower of the field

From Mitchell Platts, Augusta

Tom Watson will forget his attempt to dehumanize the golf swing in order to concentrate on winning the 49th United States Masters, which starts at the Augusta National Club here today. What inspires Watson to work enthusiastically on his game every winter is his quest for perfection. He is prepared to spend day after day blistering his hands as he hits shot after shot in order to refine any impurity in his swing.

Watson wants to be a Ben Hogan. He is striving to be remembered as the golfer who reduced the human element within the swing. But it is a dream because Watson is more of an Arnold Palmer figure and he starts to play like that every April on arrival at Augusta.

It is the clue to why his record - he has won twice and finished runner-up on three occasions - is so outstanding. For what Robert T. Jones, jun obtained when he purchased 365 acres of nursery called Fruitlands after his retirement from the game in 1930, was the perfect rolling topography for a course with a few fairways from where it is easier to approach the greens. Even so, an errant drive will not plunge Watson into deep trouble since there is no rough at Augusta, and he possesses the class to manufacture telling blows from any part of the fairway.

History supports the theory. Jack Nicklaus and Palmer, two of the boldest and longest strikers of the ball, have won five and four Masters respectively. More recently, Severiano Ballesteros, who won in 1980 and 1983, and Watson have dominated the championship. Even a year ago Ben Crenshaw abandoned attempts to harness his natural reckless-

ness from the tee and instead employed an aggressive approach on the way to a two-stroke victory over Watson.

In 1979 Fuzzy Zoeller exposed the belief that it was impossible to win here on a first visit. That week he relied on his caddy for club selection. "The guys who come down here once a year to try and get smart with Mr Jones's course are the dumb ones," he insisted.

So those competing for the first time, who include Sam Torrance, Jose Maria Olazabal of Spain, the British Amateur champion, and Ian Baker-Finch, would do well to heed those words. To finish among the top 24 and ties, thereby earning an invitation to come back in 1986 for the fiftieth Masters, would be considered a success for as well as Nick Faldo and Sandy Lyle.

Gary Player, of South Africa, and Ballesteros remain the only overseas players to have won the Masters. If there is to be another one this time then David Graham, of Australia, who has finished in the top 10 five times in his last eight attempts, probably has better credentials than Bernhard Langer, of West Germany. Greg Norman, another Australian, has been unable to practise because of a virus.

Ballesteros is the most respected "invader" but he is troubled by dermatitis of the hands which has failed to respond to treatment.

Few players have a more consistent record at Augusta than Tom Kite - he has not been out of the top six since 1979 - and he will rank among the leading contenders alongside the 1982 winner, Craig Stadler. Curtis Strange, Calvin Peete, Mark O'Meara, and Larry Wadkins have each won two tournaments this year.

This contrasts with Watson's relatively mediocre start. But Watson and Augusta have one thing in common: at this time of year they start to bloom.

Card of course					
Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	400	4	10	485	4
2	355	5	11	465	4
3	390	4	12	155	3
4	205	3	13	465	5
5	425	4	14	405	4
6	180	3	15	500	5
7	380	4	16	170	3
8	535	5	17	400	4
9	435	4	18	405	4
Out	3,465	36	In	3,440	36

RACING: FRANCOME'S PREMATURE RETIREMENT LEAVES VOID ON NATIONAL HUNT SCENE

Smith Eccles to make most of opportunity with Restless Shot

By Mandarin

Steve Smith-Eccles, who epitomized so ably for John Francome, when winning last month's Champion Hurdle on Ace Wild, can again take advantage of the champion jockey's absence at Cheltenham when he rides Restless Shot in the Railright Handicap Chase.

The race is the last and most valuable leg of the second year's world championship, Francome having won the inaugural event 12 months ago. Smith-Eccles's other two rides, Yeamans and Solid Rock, do not hold obvious winning chances but both are fresh horses and may figure prominently enough for the United Kingdom representative to gain win the overall title.

Restless Shot beat much better opposition than he has in the past when winning the Ascot last week, and he is a 5lb penalty for that success. This was his first victory over 2½ miles, all his nine previous wins being over two miles or thereabouts.

There must therefore be a light question mark about him as a contender for the overall title.

Tom's Little Al, who finished second behind his selection last week, appears well held and is a strong contender.

Australia's Nick Harnett, who rides Tom's Little Al, looks to have better prospects on

Cocaine (3.25) while his antipodean colleague, Paul Hills, should be seen to advantage on Mossy Bell (2.50).

The opening novice handicap hurdle looks a particularly tricky contest but Horn Of Plenty, who had some good young hurdlers behind him when ninth to Asir in the Sun Alliance Hurdle last month, is taken to concede weight all round and provide West Germany's Stefan Wegner with his first British success.

General Chryson, who was beaten 17 lengths by Ashlone on his hurdling debut at Sandown last month, again meets Stan Mellor's six-year-old on level terms in the Grainflow Future Champions Novices' Hurdle.

However, General Chryson has since won so impressively at Newbury that he is a confident choice to gain his revenge. Brighton's opening meeting of the 1985 Flat season will not set many pulses racing but the opening Seven Dials Stakes provides the day's best bet in the opinion of the author.

Although only winning by three parts of a length at the Midlands track, Paul Cole's Home Guard colt had plenty in hand and should land this on the way to better things.

Big Fal has been a wonderful servant to Guy Harwood over the years but he has surprisingly failed to win last year. However, he can some good races in the

useful company and the Pulborough trainer seems to have found an ideal opening opportunity for 1985 in the Pycombe Apprentice Stakes.

Dramatic end to glittering career

By Michael Seely

John Francome's abrupt and premature abdication from the hunt racing scene was as sudden as any previous incident in the dramatic career of the 32-year-old, twice-hailed son of a Swindon builder, who will become champion jockey for the seventh time this season.

"I decided at the beginning of this season that I'd had enough," he said at Cheltenham yesterday. "And since then I haven't been able to tick the days off fast enough. And then after my fall at Cheltenham on Tuesday, I was suddenly sickened by it."

The daily scene will be the doublet not only for the loss of his matchless skills in the saddle, which were probably encapsulated in his brilliant late sweep to capture the 1981 Champion Hurdle on Ace Wild, but also for the excitement generated by his brushes with authority.

After Winter, himself four-time champion jockey, Francome had been on seven occasions, was quick to pay tribute to the man who has been the greatest rider for Upstarts for the past 12 seasons. "John will be impossible. I'll be lucky if I get anyone as half as good. He was by far and away the best horseman I've ever seen, but I couldn't call him the greatest jockey."

"I'm sure that I'll get myself fixed up in due course. This season Ben de Haan and Jimmy Duggan will share the ride between them," the trainer continued. "The last two months during the summer to think things over. But I'm sure both these boys will do me well."

Francome said that the prelude and the thrill of his career arrived when capturing the Cheltenham Gold Cup on Midnight Court in 1978 for Winter. However, there is no need to scan the history books for evidence of his genius. So many recent memories come flooding through the mind.

The sheer strength and determination, the rider's relentless hunting of Exeter's Watson to beat Deep Impression at the Cheltenham January meeting was a typical



An eye on the future: Francome ponders the safer prospect of training

example. More recently he demonstrated every facet of both his horsemanship and his skills as a jockey when landing a noble Sandown on Clatterbuck, Dunmore and Tordalbach. And then at the Liverpool Grand National meeting

he magically persuaded Wayward Lad to recapture the ability which had seen Dickinson's magnificent chaser win two King George VI chases at Kempton Park when beating Early Bird in the Whitbread Gold Label Cup.

Francome rode his first winner on Monday at Worcester on December 2, 1970. He had his 1,000th success at the same course on October 29, 1984. He passed Stan Mellor's record total of 1,035 winners, when scoring on Don't Touch at Fontwell on May 28 the same season. During his career, Francome rode 1,138 winners under rules. He has ridden more than 100 winners in each of the past five seasons and this time recorded the fastest half-century ever achieved by a jockey.

His injuries have included three broken wrists and two fractured left arms. He has dislocated his shoulder on several occasions, broken three collar bones

and a hand, vertebrae, badly scoured shins and had countless other cuts and bruises. Francome now plans to start training at Windy Hollow, the house he built himself on a hill above Lambourn. "I plan to have six jumpers and 14 Flat race horses when I get licence later this year. But I've got plenty of room to build more boxes. I reckon it will be easier on the Flat because there are less things that can go wrong. And it will be interesting breaking in yearlings and training them on."

Let Steve Smith-Eccles, Francome's boon companion and natural successor, have the last word. "As a jockey he was superb, particularly the way he handled the horse. He was a whole weight and he never let a horse around him, particularly on bad days. On a freezing February afternoon at Plumpton, when everything had gone wrong, he'd soon have us all roaring our heads off with laughter. We shall miss him."

15-season record

Season	Wins	Places	Shows	Points
1970/1	4	14	1	1
1971/2	19	81	1	1
1972/3	21	128	1	1
1973/4	30	157	20	1
1974/5	70	303	2	1
1975/6	96	392	1	1
1976/7	108	412	1	1
1977/8	83	333	2	1
1978/9	95	403	2	1
1979/80	69	345	1	1
1980/1	105	363	1	1
1981/2	120	549	1	1
1982/3	106	487	1	1
1983/4	121	529	1	1
1984/5	101	373	1	1
TOTALS	1,138	5,001	-	-

Sand Iron completes Duffield's full set

George Duffield reached a personal landmark when Sand Iron won the three-runner Chertisford Stakes at Lingfield Park yesterday. It was a wonderful effort by a horse which has the ground.

Dina Smith, seen to move steadily under her first winner of the season when the 1982 Triumph Hurdle victor Shiny Copper beat Foreman by a short head in the Tonbridge Handicap.

Shiny Copper was capably ridden by 7lb claimer, Derek Brown, who was having his first ride for Mrs Smith. "I was very pleased and hope he can ride Shiny Copper at Chertisford on Monday," said Dina who fears she may lose the horse soon. "The owner insists on selling Shiny Copper so he is up for sale at Ascot on May 7, the very day we move to new stables at Eastbury. I'm sure he'll be a great success."

Shiny Copper was looking for another eight dual purpose runners to fill in.

Street Level, the winner of a seller at Chertisford last month, followed up by three lengths in the Ardingly Selling Handicap. She was bought in for 2,300 guineas by Dorking trainer Hugh O'Neill, who said: "She's a wonderful horse and I'm sure she'll be a success in the morning, she'll go for a treble tomorrow afternoon at Brighton."

The winning jockey in each of the four Railright National Hunt World Jockeys' Championship races at Cheltenham today will score 10 points, with the second, third and fourth placed jockeys earning seven, four and two points respectively.

Results from two meetings

Cheltenham

Going: Soft. 1. CORPUS CLINGER (P. Leach 5-2, 2nd) P. Leach 5-2, 2nd. 2. M. J. B. (P. Leach 5-2, 2nd) P. Leach 5-2, 2nd. 3. M. J. B. (P. Leach 5-2, 2nd) P. Leach 5-2, 2nd. 4. M. J. B. (P. Leach 5-2, 2nd) P. Leach 5-2, 2nd. 5. M. J. B. (P. Leach 5-2, 2nd) P. Leach 5-2, 2nd. 6. M. J. B. (P. Leach 5-2, 2nd) P. Leach 5-2, 2nd. 7. M. J. B. (P. Leach 5-2, 2nd) P. Leach 5-2, 2nd. 8. M. J. B. (P. Leach 5-2, 2nd) P. Leach 5-2, 2nd. 9. M. J. B. (P. Leach 5-2, 2nd) P. Leach 5-2, 2nd. 10. M. J. B. (P. Leach 5-2, 2nd) P. Leach 5-2, 2nd. 11. M. J. B. (P. Leach 5-2, 2nd) P. Leach 5-2, 2nd. 12. M. J. B. (P. Leach 5-2, 2nd) P. Leach 5-2, 2nd. 13. M. J. B. (P. Leach 5-2, 2nd) P. Leach 5-2, 2nd. 14. M. J. B. (P. Leach 5-2, 2nd) P. Leach 5-2, 2nd. 15. M. J. B. (P. Leach 5-2, 2nd) P. Leach 5-2, 2nd. 16. M. J. B. (P. Leach 5-2, 2nd) P. Leach 5-2, 2nd. 17. M. J. B. (P. Leach 5-2, 2nd) P. Leach 5-2, 2nd. 18. M. J. B. (P. Leach 5-2, 2nd) P. Leach 5-2, 2nd. 19. M. J. B. (P. Leach 5-2, 2nd) P. 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THE TIMES

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

IN 1944 people expected the Government to promise radical action to create jobs. Throughout the war government propaganda continued to emphasize that there would be no return to the mass unemployment of the 1920s and 1930s. The publication of the 1944 Employment White Paper affirmed the view that governments had a responsibility to pursue policies that provided employment opportunities for all.

Indeed, it stated that Britain would observe the international labour convention standards. All political parties promised to tackle mass unemployment as a priority and people elected a Labour Government convinced that we would achieve it.

Forty-one years later, this Government deliberately pursues a policy of high and unprecedented levels of unemployment. The first Employment White Paper since 1944 delivers a 37-page lecture on 19th-century economics. Unlike that last White Paper, this Government refuses to "accept as one of their primary aims and responsibilities the maintenance of a high and stable level of employment".

Nowhere do they offer the hope of a return to full employment. Nowhere do they hold out the prospect of any sort of future for the half million young people who will leave school this year.

Instead, the White Paper, and Tom King in his *Times* article, repeat the myth that the Government is really doing quite well, because it is creating jobs. "Employ-

ment is rising", we are told. The figures on which the Government bases its assertions are sample labour surveys, which are, at best, sophisticated guesswork and, at worst, a massaging of the employment figures upwards, just as the Government has massaged the unemployment figures downwards.

For example, the self-employment figures which have been rising count anyone who admits to having worked for as little as one hour a week. But even if we accept the Government's figures, the number of jobs created is significantly smaller than the number created by the last Labour Government, and are largely part-time.

The destruction rate of jobs is significantly higher too. For every extra job created by Labour, this Government has destroyed six, and industries with them.

These figures are all put up by the Government as a smokescreen. Let us return instead to the White Paper, which sets out the ideological framework for the Government's employment policies.

The White Paper tells us that "jobs come from customers and from nowhere else", and then, that this is a "simple and enduring truth" which "must underlie any useful discussion of employment".

That the Government itself is the single largest customer of goods and services is not mentioned. That this Government has deliberately depressed both the demand over which it exercises direct control and private consumption and thus deliberately added to the levels of

The Government must

intervene to create

jobs, says Labour's

employment spokesman,

John Prescott, in an

attack on Tory policy

unemployment is not mentioned

either.

The White Paper makes a

pretence of analysing the reasons

why unemployment has failed to

fall. We are told that demand is not

the problem because stimulating

demand causes inflation, which

causes unemployment. It has not in

America, but then Reagan's

economics are no longer flavour

of the month with Mrs Thatcher.

Neither is unemployment caused

by a lack of public sector invest-

ment, according to the Government.

It is astounding that a government

can cut investment in transport and

local authority housing, which it

knows directly adds to unemploy-

ment, and then claim that the

reverse is true.

The White Paper tells us that "to

pour resources into projects that do

not yield a good economic return

will waste, not increase, our national

wealth, on which all our jobs rest in

the end". Yet the National



Economic Development Council has argued for public investment in projects such as roads and sewers - not only because these will create jobs but because the investment is needed.

To allow our infrastructure to collapse does not make economic sense, especially when people are idle who could be usefully employed.

At the Government has stopped blaming new technology for unemployment. They apparently now accept that countries like the United States and Japan, which have led the world in new technology, have been enormously successful in creating jobs.

The latest excuse is the failure of the jobs market. It is "inflexible". Working people are pricing the unemployed out of jobs. In 1979 we were told the problem was incentives for the wealth creators, or put another way, the rich were not rich enough. Now we are told the

problem is that wages for the low paid are too high - or the poor are not poor enough.

We are also told that trade unions are demanding too high wage settlements. If only they would settle for less, more jobs could be created. The Government really cannot have it both ways. Either they want a wage restraint policy or they don't. Having rejected one, they cannot then blame the unions for not co-operating in making monetarism work.

The Government is preparing the country for the continuing collapse of full-time jobs in manufacturing and a growth in part-time, low paid, no-tech jobs in the service industries. They are using Manpower Services Commission schemes as a nursery for young people for many no-hope, low paid, dead-end jobs, possibly in the soon-to-be deregulated wage council industries displacing women and people from the ethnic minorities.

They are attacking the employment rights of working people, by restricting the scope of the Employment Protection Act in small firms. They are considering abolishing the wages councils which give minimum protection and minimum pay for nearly three million workers.

It is a strange philosophy that blames hairdressers, shopworkers and textile workers earning between £60 and £70 a week for the Government's failure to create jobs.

We challenge the myth that workers, and particularly the young, are most susceptible to accepting low unemployment has tripled since

1979 as youth pay has fallen both relative to adult pay and by 4 per cent in real terms. Young males have accepted wage-rises 23 per cent less than the average increase for adult males. Young women's pay has fallen even further - 30 per cent behind the average adult female increase since 1979.

The Government has been able to produce little in real hard evidence to justify their claim that wages councils have affected job levels. They have already significantly depressed the wage levels of young people by cutting the allowance paid to Youth Training Scheme trainees.

If it had been on the same level as the allowance to Youth Opportunities Programme trainees under the Labour Government, it would now be nearer £39 a week instead of the present £26.25. Yet there has been a steady collapse in the jobs market for young people whose despair grows daily.

THE Government in the past has deliberately increased the numbers out of work. In the future it is going to change drastically the nature of the jobs market. The growth in part-time, low paid and low-skill jobs in the service industries will mean more employment for women and people from the ethnic minorities.

And it is precisely because these groups are the most vulnerable, the least industrially organized and the most susceptible to accepting low pay and poor conditions that the

Government points to these jobs as those of the future.

This supplanting of well-paid managerial jobs, predominantly in the south-east, by the growth of jobs at the bottom end of the jobs market. When Tom King says in his article (*The Times*, March 21, 1985) that "many of the new jobs are neither of the same sort, nor in the same places as the old ones", this is code for the Government's philosophy that British manufacturing has no future.

Labour launched its Jobs and Industry Campaign last week. In it we will stress that governments can and must intervene to create jobs, as is the policy of our major competitors with governments of both right and left, all of which enjoy a lower and declining level of unemployment.

We will emphasize that research and development in our new "sunrise" industries cannot be left to the market. The private sector has failed the country on investment in the past and without government action, it will do so again. We will point to the success of enterprise and employment initiatives of local Labour councils.

However, the most important aspect of the campaign is to demonstrate not only that there is an alternative, but that the Government is deliberately misleading the people by pretending otherwise. We still believe that British industry - including and especially manufacturing - has a future, in which we all have a crucial interest.

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If you have plenty of ideas and energy, write with career details, explaining why this position appeals to you: Fiona Hanson, Ind Coops Taylor Walker Ltd., 77 Muswell Hill, London N10 3PH.

Banking c£20,000+ benefits

Our client, a leading international bank, is offering a unique opportunity to a qualified ACA with banking experience.

This senior position demands a mature and commercially minded individual who above all, can demonstrate a creative, forward thinking approach.

The perfect candidate will have the flair and all-round ability necessary to make a significant contribution to growth and development in all sectors of the organisation. Career prospects are excellent.

Young Accountant £20,000+ benefits

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS ☎ 01-278 9161/5

Computer Professionals

TO £20,000 + BENEFITS
SYSTEM SECURITY EVALUATION
SOFTWARE INTEGRITY

Admiral is an independent privately owned systems and software company with proven expertise in the management and design of software systems. With the emphasis on quality our advanced areas of activity provide an environment that is both stimulating and demanding.

One of the exciting areas in which Admiral is at the forefront is the emerging field of formal verification and validation.

Admiral is currently seeking computer professionals to work on challenging new projects in this field and, hence, experience of, or a genuine interest in, any of the following is a definite advantage:

- Software Integrity
- Security Certification
- Automated Programming Support Environments
- Secure Computer Hardware Architectures
- Secure Communications
- System Development Methodologies for Secure Systems
- Automated Verification and Validation Methods
- Risk Analysis and Countermeasure Evaluation
- Mathematical Proof of Correctness
- Verification Condition Generators
- Theorem Proving
- Automated Project Management

The people sought will have a degree and several years experience of project work. For more senior positions a proven record in system development and knowledge of system specification and coding is required.

If you would like the challenge and responsibility of a career with a young and dynamic company then telephone or write to Terry Jones at the address below:

Admiral Computing Ltd., 15 Victoria Avenue, Camberley, Surrey GU15 3JH. Telephone: (0276) 6167 Telex: 838893

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LONDON CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Newly Qualified to three years PQE

Audit to: £16,500 Tax to: £17,500

Urgently required by medium to large firms

Please contact Kirsten Rundle or Gary Johnson on 01-836 9501 or write to: Douglas Llambras Associates, Freepost 410 Strand, London WC2R 0BR.

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Douglas Llambras Associates Limited
Accountancy & Management
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TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

£12,000 TO £20,000

This is an opportunity to join one of the UK's fastest expanding Petroleum Engineering and Software Consultancies.

Technical programmers, designers and consultants are required to develop complex computer systems and software for the oil and gas industry. The company sell particular software packages which are mainly developed in-house, and from time to time consultancy services are provided to clients.

Candidates must have a good honours degree in a numerate discipline, together with scientific programming experience using FORTRAN 77. It would be useful to have worked within a structured programming environment, as a high level of Software Quality Assurance is expected. It is also essential that all candidates have experience of working to commercial guidelines, although some academic experience may be relevant. Obviously people expecting salaries at the higher end of the above range should be able to demonstrate Project Management supervisory expertise or advanced Software Design abilities.

An excellent salary package is supplemented by a profit orientated bonus scheme, free private health insurance and a good pension scheme. A company car scheme is operated for senior consultants. The rate of expansion and development within the company is such that it would be unusual for less senior candidates not to achieve this level within two or three years.

Contact Jack Cowdy on 01-938-1804.

PP Information Processing People
28 Kensington Church Street, London W8 4EP
Telephone 01-858 1804 Telex 22861

Three leading pharmaceutical companies - one British, one European and one American - have asked for our help in finding experienced young physicians to strengthen their therapy development teams as:

Medical Advisers

They offer permanent posts with salaries from £20,000 to £23,000 + car and planned programmes of training and experience to enable new people to:

- set and agree the strategy for clinical trials
- monitor and control the resulting studies
- manage the interfaces of research, commercial and regulatory affairs
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- progress to more senior status and salaries

We would like to hear from you if you are 28 to 35, with three or more years' progressive post-qualification experience - academic, general or hospital - and a real interest in advancing your career in therapy development. Though retained and paid by the companies, we are briefed fully to respect confidentiality until you authorise the release of personal/career information to our clients. Please write with a succinct supporting CV, or telephone Roger Stephens for a brief initial discussion.

Roger Stephens & Associates

Management Search • Selection • Development
Dolphin Yard, 11c Holywell Hill, St. Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 1EZ.
Telephone: St. Albans (0727) 37474.

Electronic Design Engineers

Develop your abilities with the world leaders in sonobuoy technology.

Dowty Electronics Communications Division has an enviable position as one of today's real-growth high tech companies. With a stated objective of major expansion and development of underwater acoustic expertise, we intend to build upon our sonobuoy lead and our 30 years of experience in anti-submarine technology to achieve the foremost underwater acoustic design capability in the UK.

To this end we are building up our teams of leading professionals in West London and now are looking for a major input of Electronic Design Engineers with at least 2 years' experience in one or more of these specialist areas.

DIGITAL DESIGN

- signal processing for sonar related systems.
- signal decoding and interface systems.

ANALOGUE DESIGN

- radio frequency applications.
- low frequency audio circuits, filters, hybrids.
- low frequency high power audio amplifiers.
- audio multiplexing circuits.

SYSTEMS DESIGN

- sonar systems, underwater data links.

SOFTWARE DESIGN

- development of mathematical models of sonar and underwater systems.

TRANSDUCER DESIGN

- underwater transducer design fabrication and measurements.

You'll be part of a division at an exciting stage of development. We have a number of major projects in the design stage and prospects for electronics design engineers have never been better at our well-equipped West London headquarters. You can expect a highly competitive salary and benefits.

To discuss career opportunities in confidence, please phone Gavin Rendall on 01-578 0081 during office hours until 6.00 pm. Or write for a recruitment package quoting reference 85/10 and enclosing your CV to him at Dowty Electronics Limited, Communications Division, 419 Bridport Road, Greenford, Middlesex UB6 8UA.

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Experience in: - I.D.M.S.; Assisting Users in the use of QUERY language; Analysis and Administration; Data Dictionary and Data Base security systems. 1 year renewable contract. Excellent salary TAX FREE, 36 days leave + air tickets.

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Essential requirements: 5 years minimum in a senior capacity; A.N.S. 1974 Cobol + one other language (basic, Fortran, Pascal, etc.). 1 year renewable contract. Excellent salary TAX FREE, 36 days leave + air tickets.

DATA COMMS SOFTWARE SPECIALISTS to £17K

18 months + IBM assembler & experience of systems design, hardware evaluation & communications consultancy essential. Duties include European travel, high level user contact & technical consultancy. Benefits include subsidised mortgage & generous relocation assistance. Prestigious Banking corporation, Sussex.

PROJECTS LEADERS/MANAGERS £18-28K + Car

With technical and business skills for prestigious management consultancy. Areas: London, Birmingham and Manchester. Experience of large installations essential. Excellent promotion prospects.

★ U.S.A. ★ IBM COBOL OR PL/I
Programmers/Analysts/Designers required for software development consultancy. Large variety of projects. Excellent career opportunities. Package includes visa, free health insurance and return air fares.

Ring Cathy on 01-409 2884
70-71 New Bond Street, W1
Telex: 296364 ASBG
or Michael on 01-248 0820
52-54 Carter Lane, EC4
ASB Recruitment Consultants

Careers in the West

... where you'll find the best of both worlds. A superb environment in which to live and work and an area which is fast becoming recognised as a centre of technological and commercial achievement.

Manager - Design and Development

Up to £20,000
For a small, yet well established and extensively resourced high technology company. You'll be responsible for the overall design and development of a range of electromechanical products, areas of involvement will encompass all aspects of software and hardware and interfaces together with tooling and product launch. Management experience in a product development environment backed up by a relevant software or electronic qualification, is essential and a knowledge of real-time systems and ULA's would be an advantage.

Commercial Manager

Substantial five figure salary plus car
This is a superb opportunity for a suitably experienced sales professional to take overall control of the vital sales/commercial function. The company is an aggressive far sighted £ multi-million subsidiary of a major UK group, specialising in hot press moulded GRP. As a key member of the executive team, you'll be negotiating at the highest level as well as providing inspired leadership, motivation and control. Extensive sales and commercial skills ideally gained with a supplier to automotive OEM's is essential, and knowledge of polymer-based products would be advantageous.

Technical Support Manager - Telecoms

£17,000 per annum plus car
For a major international manufacturer of advanced Telecoms and Datacoms equipment. This is a senior position leading a team of engineers responsible for the installation and commissioning of advanced electronic telecoms products. Responsibilities include the management of new products, undergoing field trials, liaison with customers on maintenance issues, the establishment of a project engineering activity as well as the installation of equipment at exhibitions and seminars. Probably from a fields service management background, you should have extensive telecoms experience coupled with a qualification to HNC level in electronics or a related subject, and knowledge of both analogue and digital circuitry.

All vacancies offer excellent benefit packages, relocation assistance and genuine prospects. Interested? Then telephone or write to Andrew Burnie, Travail Executive Appointments, 14 Southgate Street, Gloucester GL1 2DH. Tel: Gloucester (0452) 415676.

Travail Executive

REPORTER Radio Derby

Are you a young ambitious reporter with at least three years' journalistic experience? If so, Radio Derby has a vacancy that may interest you. The work is primarily reporting, interviewing, bulletin writing and news-reading. Good microphone voice and current driving licence essential.

Salary £8,038 - £9,552 (currently under review) plus allowance of £537 p.a. Relocation expenses considered.

Contact us immediately for application form (quote ref. 2371, T and enclose s.a.e.): BBC Appointments, London W1A 1AA. Tel. 01-927 5799.

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Leading German manufacturer of FUSES SURGE ARRESTERS THERMAL CUTOFFS

requires for its UK activities representative with sound background in selling same or similar components. The successful candidate shall work exclusively for us. Salary is negotiable commensurate with importance of the position. Benefits package includes company car and normal business expenses. If you are interested please contact us now under

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Tecno based in Milan is an international organisation today respected by Architects and Designers throughout the world, with 24 subsidiaries in 12 different countries.

Tecno is not just a line of products, but an extended variety of design commitments. The successful candidates will join an efficient and hard-working team and be expected to become fully involved in pursuing the aims of the Company.

The ideal candidates, ideally aged 25-35, preferably graduates, will have an appreciation of contemporary design. Knowledge of the world of Architects, Designers and Specifiers would be a useful but not essential prerequisite.

Positions offered are based in London, Manchester and Edinburgh or Glasgow.

Please write to the Managing Director in first instance, quoting CV in own handwriting with details of salary required to:

Tecno (UK) Ltd.,
19 New Bond Street, London W.1.

Sales Executives

c.£27K OTE + Car Cambridge and Thames Valley
c.£12K Basic

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"A New Opportunity with a Market Leader"

Voice Input is the market leader in continuous speech recognition and response systems - one of the most exciting and fastest growing sectors of the computer industry. This young, dynamic company is now seeking sales professionals who can meet the challenge of an evolving market.

We seek a proven track record in computer or communications product sales, ideally with a strong technical background and experience of managing major accounts. If you have the initiative and commitment to succeed, Voice Input will provide the opportunity, the product and the rewards.

For more details or simply an informal and totally confidential discussion, ring me, Malcolm McConachie, on (0480) 301852 or (0734) 415233 now. Alternatively, send me your CV.

Voice Input Ltd, 7 The Quay, St. Ives, Cambridge.

CLYDE PETROLEUM plc

GEOLOGISTS GEOPHYSICISTS

Clyde is a leading and well established British independent oil company with a spread of UK onshore, North Sea and international interests. Group Head Office is in Herefordshire - a pleasant part of the country with good communications, a choice of housing and within easy reach of excellent educational facilities.

Geologists and geophysicists are required immediately to join our exploration team. Clyde has an active and growing work programme and we are looking for enthusiastic, well qualified and experienced professionals who can make a positive contribution to our growth. Applicants must have a good degree in geology or possess considerable geological experience; have worked for at least 5 years in the industry; and have a lively and enthusiastic approach to the job.

Successful candidates will start work in the UK, but some overseas appointments may follow later.

The attractive remuneration package includes a company car, membership of a non-contributory pension and medical benefit schemes and profit sharing. Reasonable relocation expenses will be met.

Please write (with CV) to:-
The Administration Manager
Clyde Petroleum plc
Coddington Court
Coddington
LEDBURY
Herefordshire HR6 1JL

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS ☎ 01-278 9161/5

Reservoir Engineering Supervisor

MANAGE ALL THE RESERVOIR ENGINEERING ASPECTS OF A COMPLEX AND CHALLENGING FIELD DEVELOPMENT

Aberdeen Based

The company is a major North Sea operator with current production and further development planned. As Reservoir Engineering Supervisor you will lead a team of experienced engineers working on complex and challenging discoveries in the North Sea. The geological complexity of the reservoir means that you will need to utilize the most advanced recovery techniques. You will be responsible for all aspects of reservoir engineering including reservoir modelling, interpretation of logs and evaluation of water and gas injection to ensure the economic depletion of the reservoirs.

Prospects for career development are excellent both internationally as well as within the wider field of petroleum

Attractive Salary + Car

engineering.

To be a candidate you should have a BSc or MSc in Petroleum Engineering and 5-8 years' reservoir engineering experience.

The position carries a highly competitive salary and attractive benefits package including a company car. Generous relocation assistance is available where appropriate.

To apply, please write to Summit Management Consultants Limited, Cavendish Court, 11/15 Wigmore Street, London W1H 9LB or telephone 01-629 3532.

SMCL
OIL & GAS RECRUITMENT
LONDON & HOUSTON

PROJECT MANAGERS

A career to match your ambition

£18-28,000 + car

Seeking a career move which will broaden your experience, develop your business and technical skills, and offer an exciting challenge?

Then consider Management Consultancy with one of the leading UK firms (in either London, Birmingham or Manchester), advising some of the country's most successful and innovative enterprises.

Our activities are diverse. But, increasingly, we're being called on by clients to advise and assist at the highest level with the management of substantial projects, ranging from sophisticated systems development to establishing new computer centres.

It's demanding, creative work with high personal rewards. And not simply in terms of salary (which can start at up to £28,000) and job satisfaction. We also offer tailored training, excellent promotion prospects in a dynamic and professional environment, and the opportunity to work with specialists from other business areas.

Rapid expansion means we now seek additional graduates aged 28-37 with an impressive track record, particularly as a Project Manager or Leader. Significant involvement in at least one substantial (20+ man years) project is essential. This experience could have been gained with a major manufacturer, software house, or a large installation.

Take another step towards matching your ambition. Send full personal and career details (stating preferred location and daytime telephone number) to Jane Kirby, quoting reference 1441/C on both envelope and letter.

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Management Consultants
128 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4P 4JX

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Our client provides a complete and structured answer for those computer managers who are prepared to address realistically the question of large scale contingency support for IBM mainframe computers and who want to stay in business following loss or breakdown of their central computers.

The successful candidate must have a proven track record in sales management, combined with self motivation and be capable of handling protracted negotiations at board level.

The salary package will be geared to attract high quality applicants and will include performance related bonus, car, excellent fringe benefits and if necessary, relocation expenses.

The right person will have present earnings, combining salary and commission, of about £35K.

Please write in strictest confidence giving full CV and showing how you meet our requirements.

STIRLING RECRUITMENT GROUP

Stirling House
44 Richmond Road
Kingston Surrey KT2 5EE
01-549 3720



DIRECTOR KING'S FUND INSTITUTE

The King's Fund is seeking to recruit a Director to set up a small, incisive and non-political institute of health policy analysis.

A search committee has been formed to draw up a short list of candidates in June 1985. The person we are will have:

○ an admired record of policy analysis, not necessarily in health.

○ the capacity to attract and work with 5 or 6 others of high calibre, and unleash their talents individually and collectively.

○ open-mindedness, without a pre-set position on major issues.

○ toughness to explain and defend the institute's findings.

○ ability to manage the institute.

The selection process will encourage candidates to develop and explain their own ideas about the institute's initial agenda and approach.

Candidates are welcome from any country and any academic discipline. We welcome suggestions on whom to approach as well as enquiries from potential applicants. Preferred age range 35-50. Salary by negotiation, but unlikely to be less than £25,000.

Further information can be obtained in confidence from:

Robert Maxwell, Secretary, King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, 14 Palace Court, London W2 4ET.

or from any other member of the search committee, which comprises Dr Anthony Dawson, Professor Rudolf Klein, Professor Philip Rhodes and Professor Alan Williams.

Those interested should notify Robert Maxwell, preferably with a CV, by 1 June, 1985.

MANAGING DIRECTOR (High Technology)

For established and well-funded high technology private company specialising in advanced electro-optic and spectroscopic equipment. This has been mostly supplied to the academic community but we are now looking for an increased industrial and defence base.

In addition to a proven track record in sales and marketing high technology equipment, the successful applicant will need to have high motivation to achieve ambitious growth targets, sound appreciation of financial matters, knowledge of batch production methods and experience in general management. Preferred age range 35-45. MBA or equivalent qualification desirable.

This senior position offers a five figure salary commensurate with the position, company car and attractive share option scheme.

Apply: Dr. M. A. West,
Applied Photophysics Ltd.,
20 Albemarle St.,
London W1X 3HA.

INFORMATION SERVICES ASSISTANT

Regent's Park

£14,000-£18,500

This is an excellent career development opportunity for an individual to join a major international professional service organisation.

The position involves the provision and organisation of a wide variety of services which include computing, membership list control, information retrieval systems and statistical reporting. This responsible post involves deputising for the head of Information Services.

The ideal candidate will be a graduate with experience of similar projects probably gained within a management services department. The ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing is required together with the flexibility to respond effectively to a variety of requests for information and support.

The conditions of service are above average and include a generous holiday allowance, excellent pension scheme and BUPA. For a confidential discussion contact our London Office on 01-353 0981 or send your C.V. quoting reference S1/1104 to

Myriad Appointments (London) Ltd,
30 Fleet Street,
London, EC4Y 1AA.

London

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Reading

FLOPETROL JOHNSTON

Schlumberger

FLOPETROL JOHNSTON, a Schlumberger Unit, provides a wide range of testing and production services to the oil industry. Our Research and Development Department designs the tools and methods for the field operations. For our Reservoir Systems Analysis Section, we need:

RESERVOIR ENGINEERS

To develop new testing methods and implement them in the field;

To model reservoir configurations and design adapted tests;

To quantify well and reservoir phenomena associated with pressure transients.

Located near Paris, this job includes many contacts with other Schlumberger Units, mainly our Cambridge Research Centre.

You must want a truly international career, be under 30, have an M.Sc. in Reservoir Engineering (or equivalent) plus 3-5 years of field experience in practical well testing and pressure transient analysis. In return we offer an attractive salary and benefits.

To apply in confidence, please send full C.V. to Jean-Claude Sobel, Personnel Manager, FLOPETROL JOHNSTON, BP 592, 77005 MELUN Cedex, France.

These new appointments offer...

IBM Professionals

...a unique opportunity to join an organisation which is at the leading edge of technological innovations.

The main profit making division of this major communications company requires a variety of skills to assist in the development of new business systems. The successful applicants will join a new group which has been created to produce effective Management Information and Financial systems for the entire division.

Development will take place at the City and South Hertfordshire centres and will utilise the latest IBM hardware running under MVS with IMS, ADS on-line, COBOL and WIZARD.

Database Designer

£13,000-£18,000

Reporting directly to the Systems Manager, the successful applicant will be responsible for the design of new business systems. The successful applicants will join a new group which has been created to produce effective Management Information and Financial systems for the entire division.

Systems Designers

£11,000-£18,000

Systems Designers are required to join this group which is dedicated to the production of interactive financial business systems. The successful candidates will co-ordinate the design of the systems which will be developed using ADS on-line and COBOL. A minimum of three years experience designing large systems is required together with the ability to identify and evaluate alternative technical solutions. Good business awareness combined with previous experience of fourth generation tools would be advantageous.

Systems Analysts

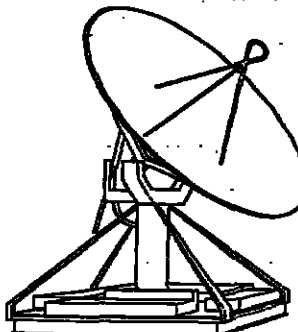
£11,000-£18,000

The creation of this group represents an opportunity for Systems Analysts to become involved with new and innovative business systems from feasibility through to implementation. Candidates should offer two to three years experience of systems investigation preferably gained within a large organisation. Required to liaise with users and consultants, applicants should display clear and concise communication skills.

Programmers

£10,000-£15,000

Programmers have the opportunity to become involved in the development of interactive Management Information and Financial systems. Experience ranging from eighteen months to three years IBM COBOL is needed. Knowledge of IMS and ADS on-line would be advantageous. There is also a requirement for a Programmer to develop systems using WIZARD. For right candidates training in ADS on-line and WIZARD will be given.



This is an excellent opportunity to join a progressive company and become involved with brand new business developments. The excellent salaries reflect the importance placed on these positions and the benefits package is as you would expect of a major UK organisation, future career opportunities within the company are limitless.

Contact Myriad quoting ref B/TIMES.

Myriad Appointments (London) Ltd,

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(No stamp required).

01-353 0981

GRADUATES or good 'A' levels £10-£12K

We are currently working with several prestigious companies who are seeking young and dynamic sales executives. You must be under 30 and have at least 6 months experience in a sales or field sales environment. In return you will be offered an excellent basic salary and commission earnings and car. There are first-class training and career development prospects. For immediate consideration call

Lindsay Hoggie,
Bernadette Laffey or Alison Whitwell
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Graduate Appointments
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THE LONDON SOFA-BED CENTRE

Britain's leading Sofa-Bed specialists need energetic, outgoing sales people, with management potential for their Fulham Road and Tottenham Court Road shops. Experience is not essential as full training will be given. This is an excellent opportunity to enjoy a well-paid, interesting career with an expanding company marketing high quality merchandise.

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580 8480

FAST GROWING residential property management company, New Green, looking to cover regional property full time salesperson/personal assistant. One other grade or vacancy career person, assembly oriented and reliable. Decent salary, driving license, word processing, computer knowledge. Tel: 011 940 940.

Bournemouth a vacancy exists for a person with sales or management experience. Phone 0202 28490.

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A CV SERVICE for top quality results and free job search. 0906 641124.

SECRETARY required for Kensington. Tel: 011 629 7121.

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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS ☎ 01-278 9161/5

Blue-Chip Financial Opportunities

Corporate Finance & Venture Capital

Corporate Finance Manager c£25,000+benefits
A long established and successful Merchant Bank wishes to recruit an experienced, legally qualified executive. The appointed applicant will be currently working for a leading Stockbroker or Merchant Bank, and will be seeking a more demanding and challenging role. The ability to lead a team dealing with a wide range of corporate finance work is essential. Promotion prospects are excellent.

Venture Capital Trainee c£17,000+bonuses
An established and highly successful specialist company involved in venture finance and development capital, seeks a recently qualified Chartered Accountant to develop their analytical skills and to exploit their deal-making and entrepreneurial potential. The firm's client base is diverse with a present emphasis on high technology start-up situations. The position offers a highly attractive remuneration package and excellent career opportunities.

Corporate Finance Executive c£16,500+benefits
One of the UK's leading Accepting Houses requires recently qualified Chartered Accountants or Lawyers to join its established and highly profitable corporate finance department. The successful applicants will work in a highly demanding environment, being involved, at an early stage, with acquisition and merger studies, share flotations, corporate advice etc. The benefits and promotional prospects offered, combine to present a highly attractive opportunity for the selected applicants.

Candidates interested in the above mentioned challenging opportunities should contact Neal Wyman ACA, Manager, Corporate Finance Division, at Michael Page Partnership, 23 Southampton Place, London WC1A 2BP, quoting ref. T1485, or phone 01-404 5751. He will be pleased to offer informal career guidance in this specialist area.

Industry & Commerce

Accounting Manager to £18,000+benefits
Our client is a young, fast expanding City based company with significant interests in securities trading. They seek a qualified ACA to make a positive contribution to profitable growth with specific responsibility for financial accounting/reporting, sophisticated management/risk monitoring information and internal advice at director/senior manager level. Candidates, preferably with some exposure to the securities industry, should be aged 25-30, with the potential to succeed in a progressive environment.

Assistant Financial Controller to £18,000+car
A London based British oil company seeks a qualified accountant, aged 27-30, to become actively involved in corporate decision making and development. Responsibilities will include, statutory/management reporting and ad hoc project assignments, using computer facilities where applicable. Candidates should have at least 3 years p.a.e. ideally gained in the oil industry. As an integral member of a small but highly motivated team you should be able to work under pressure to strict deadlines.

RA. to Financial Director £16,000
An exceptionally successful U.S.M. quoted public relations/communications group offers an exciting career challenge to a recently qualified ACA. The group's clients are mostly City based, resulting in various investigations and project assignments, interfacing with the presentation of management and financial accounting information. To maintain their effective market expansion the successful applicant will possess excellent communication skills in dealing with the client's senior, and often non financial, executives, concentrating on business expansion and potential U.S.M. flotations.

For further information on these or other assignments we are currently handling, contact Mark Brewer on 01-242 0965 or write to him, quoting ref. T2485, enclosing a comprehensive curriculum vitae, at Michael Page Partnership, 31 Southampton Row, London WC1B 5HT. Strictest confidence assured.

Taxation Career Opportunities

Taxation Advisor c£21,000+car
Our client, a major international oil company, requires tax specialists for its UK tax department based in Central London. The successful candidates will undertake tax planning and advisory work which will include involvement in corporation and oil tax.

Applicants for this position should be ACA's or Inspectors (principal) with first class academic and examination records. Oil tax experience is not required.

Tax Consultant £15,000-£22,000+car
Our client is a leading international firm of Chartered Accountants providing a comprehensive taxation service for both corporate and personal clients.

The tax department is organised in small groups and deals, almost exclusively, with consultancy work ranging from international corporate mergers to personal tax for executives.

Applications are invited from young, graduate ACA's, Solicitors, Barristers or Revenue Inspectors with commitment, drive and a high level of intellectual ability.

Tax Specialist c£16,500
Our client is a heavily tax-biased medium sized firm of Chartered Accountants in London's West End.

They have an opening for an ACA (Qualified December 1983 or July 1984) with a solid grounding in taxation. The role involves compliance and planning for a wide range of corporate and private clients. There is no limit to promotion within the firm.

To find out more about these positions or for an informal career discussion, please contact Peter Morris or Lindsay Sugden ACA on 01-405 0442 or write, quoting ref. T3485, to The Manager, Taxation Division, 31 Southampton Row, London WC1B 5HT. Outside office hours telephone 01-373 0229. Strictest confidence assured.

Public Practice Overseas

Considering working in the USA or Canada during 1985?

Competition for these areas will be as intense as ever and by concentrating exclusively on these locations you could miss the opportunity of a secondment overseas altogether. Why not consider some alternatives?

Caribbean to £33,000 tax free
Outstanding opportunities exist for newly and recently qualified ACA's to develop their careers in the beautiful surroundings of the Bahamas, Barbados, the Cayman Islands, Curacao, or Jamaica as well as Bermuda.

Middle East to £26,000 tax free
The foremost firm of chartered accountants in the Middle East are seeking a number of audit seniors and supervisors for their offices in Saudi Arabia, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Qatar, Kuwait, Jordan and Oman.

Australia £15,000 package
Major firms in Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and Adelaide require young chartered accountants for major systems based audit assignments. Candidates from a general practice background will be considered depending upon the nature of their experience.

Candidates interested in finding out more about these and other alternatives overseas should contact Charles Macleod or Adrian Barrett on 01-405 0442 (evenings/weekends 01-263 9165) or write to them, quoting ref. T4485, at Michael Page Partnership, Public Practice Division, 31 Southampton Row, London, WC1B 5HT. Initial discussions can be held either at our offices or locally (outside working hours if necessary).



Michael Page Partnership

International Recruitment Consultants
London Bristol Birmingham Manchester Leeds Glasgow Brussels New York Sydney

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Additional information may be obtained from Dr Ernie Bennett, MRC Headquarters Office, 20 Park Crescent, London W1N 4AL; telephone 01-638 5422 ext 363.

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HORIZONS

The Times guide to career development

The art of using computers

British inventiveness and creativity is being given a major lift by the new regime at the Royal College of Art. Under its recently appointed rector, Jocelyn Stevens, the college is reasserting itself as the premier training ground for the country's "star" designers.

With the clear purpose of "responding to market pressures", the college, which is the country's only exclusively postgraduate institution for art and design studies, is spearheading the drive to produce a greater number of better trained professionals in the fields of industrial design and communications.

As it prepares for an imminent expansion in its number of design places there is no doubt about where its priorities lie.

"What we're aiming to do is to train students with design skills which are relevant to the needs of British industry," says Mr Stevens. "As a result of our recent restructuring we have created almost eighty new places in disciplines such as transport design, animation, holography, design and art direction, and industrial design."

"But that doesn't mean we are lowering our standards - on the contrary, we are going to raise them even higher."

Many students find their jobs overseas

The Royal College of Art, it is no secret, has gone through a difficult time recently. But having proclaimed that it is "now under new management", it is about to settle down to an array of well defined goals.

With projected student numbers standing at 250 in the faculty of design, 250 in the faculty of communication and just 100 in fine art, it is emphatic that its role is to serve British industry. The only question mark is whether British managers are ready to respond to the rich talent which could flood their way.

"I'm afraid much of our traditional industry is still rather stick-in-the-mud about designers," says Mr Stevens. "Too often there's an unwillingness to take advantage of what they can contribute."

Notwithstanding this reluctance on the part of employers, however, the college's design students still find it very easy to jobs. Unfortunately, these jobs are, all too frequently, overseas.

For example, graduates in industrial design in 1983 joined Porsche in Austria, Knoll International in Paris, Talbot in France, Volvo in Holland and Ford-Werke in West Germany. Only one student went to a British car company.

This has to change, says Mr Stevens. At the same time as he is

Edward Fennell on the college that is keeping up with industry in the 1980s

expanding the number of design students he hopes also to widen the interest of employers in the college's students.

Undoubtedly these students have much to contribute. Even during the uncertainties of the past few years Professor Frank Height, of industrial design, has made an innovation with a range of courses which have married together design and technology skills.

For a start he has set up pioneering courses in industrial design engineering, run in conjunction with the neighbouring Imperial College of Science and Technology, and polymer engineering graduates who see the need to add formal "design" training to their technological skills.

"It was a most stimulating experience," said Howard Biddell, a former mechanical engineering student who now works for Cambridge Consultants. "It opened up an awareness and a range of faculties I didn't know I possessed."

Meanwhile, the college is forging ahead in the areas of information technology with a particular interest in computer-aided design and computer graphics. Having started from scratch with just a single computer terminal three years ago, the college has taken a world lead in the application of computers to three-dimensional modelling for design.

Mike Stolling, the member of staff most involved in CAD, said: "There's a tremendous amount of international interest in our work, especially from people in America."

The college intends to turn out increasingly computer-literate designers as, without doubt, this is where the major growth will come in the years ahead. Even in areas such as carpet design, which has traditional allegiance to fine art, the college intends to make full use of computer expertise.

It is also significant that one of the first new posts created in the college under the reorganization was for a computer manager.

As part of the move towards a more commercial approach, Professor Height is keen to recruit more well qualified engineers for his "design and marketing" option. He is also devising a new course in "product planning, marketing and export studies". This will be open to students from a wide range of disciplines and will link up with work at the Buckinghamshire Institute of Higher

Education which has a distinguished export studies department.

"This is what our current designers lack," says Professor Height. "If they are asked to design something specifically for the South American market they just don't have the knowledge."

"The new course will give them the background to tackle that sort of project with confidence."

Another possibility is to follow up the schemes for engineers and technologists with a course aimed specifically at economists. Just as designers need to know more about the commercial and financial dimension of their work, so economists also need a wider appreciation of the contribution of design to a company's effectiveness.

Certainly, if this goes ahead there will emerge a truly catholic and eclectic atmosphere within the institution.

Back in the automotive design unit, which was actually set up in 1967 and is recognized as being rivalled only by the Los Angeles Art Centre as the best car design school in the world, there are plans to extend beyond cars alone and cover trucks, buses and coaches.

Again links are being established

'This country has some marvellous animators'

with an outside organization, the Cranfield Institute of Technology, to beef up the engineering end, and the whole transport studies department looks set to enlarge yet further its crop of trail-blazing designers. Guess who trained the designer of the new Sinclair electric car?

With the future being, as the advertisements claim, "closer than you think", holography is another centre of interest.

Student numbers in holography, part of the faculty of communication, are about to rise from two to twelve, and with new investment in electronics the holographic course is likely to be the best equipped in the world. Likewise animation, moving from seven students to sixteen, is being much strengthened by the reorganization.

"We've got some marvellous animators in this country," says Mr Stevens, "and I want the college to play a full part in the growth of this part of the communication industry."

Mr Stevens's reign at the college will not be all smooth. Some areas of study, such as architecture and design research, are being cut. But from being a rather flabby institute the Royal College of Art is shaping up into a sharply pointed and forceful instrument for achieving change in British design practice.

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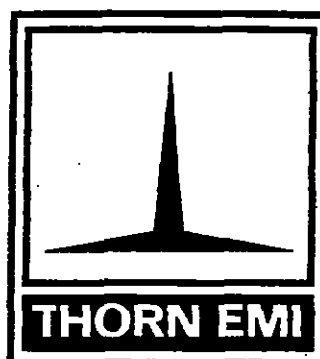
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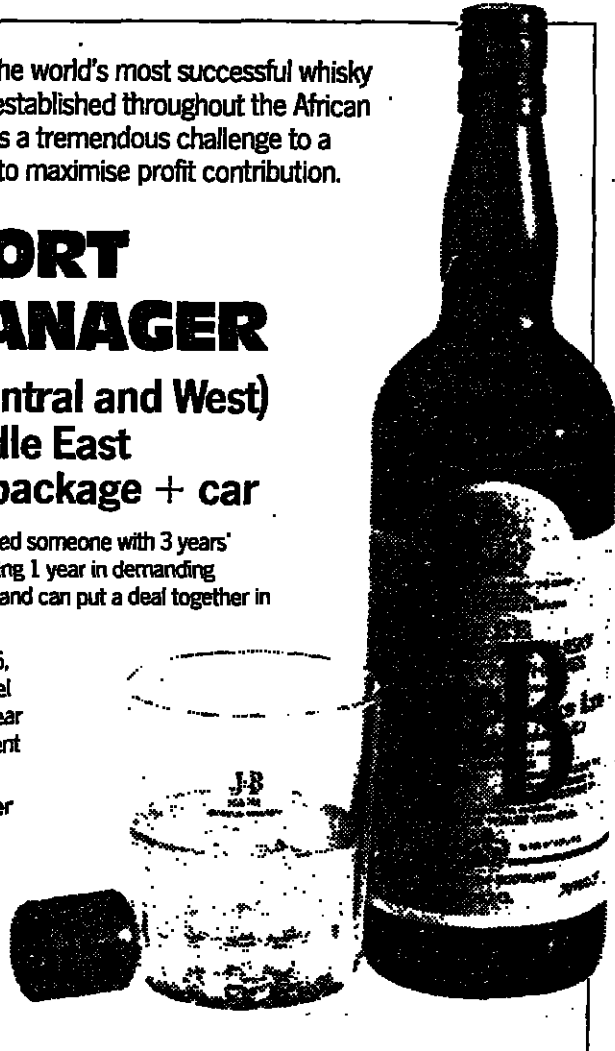
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